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BIRTHS.

- On February 14, 1909, at Chateau du Mont D'Orel, Gabrielle Dordogne Françoise, the wife of Louis Roeder (Commissioner of Customs, retired), of a son.—J.M.
- On March 7, 1909, at Dunmow, Essex, wife of E. T. Bond, formerly of Canton, daughter of E. T. Bond, of a son.—J.M.
- On April 8, 1909, at Green Park House, 134 Piccadilly, London, the wife of Mr. R. E. Bickins, of a son. (By Wire).

MARRIAGES.

- On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HERMANN ARLT, eldest son of Carl Arlt, of Breslau, to Valérie MARGARET, daughter of the late Professor Peter Robolczky of Budapest.
- On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, CLAUDE J. G., and son of the late John Hill, of Manchester, to MARION ETTIE, 3rd daughter of the late Richard Forster, of Durham, and Mrs. Forster, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- On the 11th April, at St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, by the Rev. G. E. Thompson, B.A., MARY WILKINSON, daughter of the late William Mitchell, of Glasgow, to THOMAS, son of the late William Leyland, of Glasgow.

DEATHS.

- On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HARRY HENDERSON OWLER, of Paisley, near Glasgow, aged 55 years, Electrical Engineer with the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd.
- On April 6, 1909, at Shanghai, HILDA BERN, TRAM, aged 21 months, dearly beloved daughter of Captain and Mrs. F. Lloyd.

The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

CHINESE RAILWAYS AND FINANCES.

(10th April.)

Whether the representatives of Great Britain through the British Minister at Peking with reference to the proposed German loan for the purpose of constructing a section of the Canton-Hankow line will bear fruit is still open to question, but there is reason to believe that British investors in Chinese railway stocks are becoming chary of entrusting their money unless the Chinese Imperial Government is prepared to give ample security in return. This feeling of doubt with regard to the capability of the Chinese Government to carry the responsibilities she has undertaken in this direction is emphasised by the Peking correspondent of the London Times who recently sent a somewhat alarmist report to his paper regarding the Shanghai-Hanchow-Ningpo railway. It must not be forgotten that Dr. Morrison is apt to indulge in gloomy prognostications when things are dull and equally inclined to indulge in optimistic reviews when the mood is upon him. As the result of an inspection of the line in question Dr. Morrison presented serious charges of incompetence against the constructors and suggested that the capital supplied by British investors was being squandered. Then there was a statement issued by the Board of Communications giving the results of the working of the principal lines, shown a profit on the working of most of the northern lines but a considerable loss on others, more especially the Shanghai-Nanking Railway. There have also been reports that the different sections of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway are not making equally satisfactory progress, and lately the Associate Director of that railway was in Shanghai en route to Peking to make an inspection of the Southern section of the line, while the statement was made a few days ago that the Viceroy has appointed an able British engineer to make an inspection of the Shanghai-Hanchow-Ningpo Railway, with a view to ascertaining whether or not Dr. Morrison's criticisms are well-founded. As a Northern contemporary points out there is reason to believe that all this activity is due to the operations of rival syndicates and that, in consequence, the reports are not always to be implicitly trusted. A writer in the *Mercury* of Shanghai holds that the heavy loss reported in the working of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway during the past year proves that the fact that a line has been splendidly constructed and supplied with irreproachable rolling stock is not sufficient to ensure its being run on a paying basis. It must be well managed, which no doubt the Shanghai-Nanking line is, and besides be able to secure profitable traffic, which apparently the Shanghai-Nanking line cannot do, notwithstanding the fact that it traverses one of the richest districts of China. The Chinese Government, however, seems to be awakening to the fact that all is not well with the railway, as it is announced in a native telegram from Peking that the Board of Communications intends to send a high official to investigate, along with the Governor of Kiangsu, into the causes of the heavy loss incurred in the year's working of the line, and mention is made of revising the freight regulations. In this connection the *Peking and Tientsin Times* has recently published a suggestive article dealing with the financial position of Chinese railways, with special reference to the Canton-Hankow section of the grand trunk line. It is well understood, says our contemporary, that China is at present negotiating a loan of some four millions sterling, in order to finance the construction of four hundred miles of the railway between Hankow and Canton. Her chances of success, however, can hardly be rated very highly, for several reasons:—The Chinese Government has no reputation for efficiency in constructional undertakings of this kind. The Imperial Chinese Revenue is very inadequate under present conditions, and its figures demonstrate how utterly inadequate that Revenue is as security for a loan. The present foreign debt of China amounts to £145,000,000, which has been almost entirely contracted within the last thirteen years. To pay the interest on that debt a sum of seven and a half millions is required, of which it is estimated that productive works supply about a million. The charge on the Imperial Revenue is, therefore, six-and-a-half millions sterling, to provide which the revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs and part of the Provincial revenues are hypothecated; and there remains but a balance of some six millions sterling to meet the purposes of the ordinary expenditure. That sum is obviously insufficient even to meet executive expenses, and it is notorious that additional money has to be scraped together each year in order to make good the deficit. Nor does it appear that the revenue can be expanded; and in these circumstances, it is very doubtful whether China can give the

required security for the large loan that is required. The true policy, of course, says the London *Globe*, of March 4, is to place the contract for building the line with European engineers, in which case the work would be done more cheaply, more efficiently and without any financial difficulty. So far our contemporaries. From the Hongkong reader's standpoint these things have been said before and will in all likelihood be repeated in the near future. But if China's ability to offer the necessary security to those able and willing to lend loans for constructional purposes is so inadequate why all this fuss over the question whether Germany or Great Britain be allowed to undertake the work? The fact seems to be that the home and foreign press is being manipulated by financial speculators who are well aware that China is in a position to offer all the security required, and who are only seeking to deflect the attention of gullible investors from the real issues at stake. Great Britain has a perfect right to demand that China should observe to the letter her treaty obligations but beyond that she cannot go, just as she is unable to compel China to accept proffered capital even if it is at a lower rate and more favourable than that offered by other Powers. The whole subject resolves itself into a diplomatic tangle which it seems hardly possible to unravel at the moment, and the probability is that we shall hear of negotiations taking place over the question for years to come. Meanwhile China has no difficulty in getting the money she requires for the construction of new railways in the Middle Kingdom, and that, after all, is the main issue from the point of view of those concerned with the real interests of the Empire, and its prosperity and advancement in the path of progress.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMPRADORE SYSTEM.

The question whether European merchants trading in China can succeed in doing business without the interposition of the compradore is once more agitating a section of the foreigners in Tientsin, with the usual result. It is contended that if every European assistant were required to possess a fluent colloquial understanding of the Chinese language the time would speedily arrive when the services of the compradore could be dispensed with and foreign traders would be in a position to deal direct with the Chinese-buyer. To those who have given a modicum of study to this question the great fallacy underlying all such positions is apparent. It seems to be assumed that immediately a foreigner is staffed by assistants of linguistic ability the ordinary Chinese dealer would be content to conduct all his trade operations through the European staff, and that the unfortunate compradore would be relegated to outer darkness. It seems to be forgotten that the Chinese people are becoming more and more averse to the idea of granting foreigners greater facilities of business intercourse than they already possess. In many cases it is extremely probable that the compradore's department is the real bulwark of a foreign firm engaged in Chinese trade, and that were it not for his attachment to the firm with which he may be associated and his general integrity and comparative disinterestedness the trade dealings of many foreign houses would languish and finally disappear. The Chinese are no longer to be regarded as nomadites, incapable of looking after their own interests. They are as alive to the possibilities of trade as any foreign firm, whether it be conducted by British, German, American or Japanese merchants and the elimination of the compradore would only induce Chinese syndicates to spring into being and absorb the trade which is now handled by European houses through the medium of the compradore and his staff. Moreover, the compradore has the business of foreign markets at his finger ends; he has painfully and laboriously acquired the most intimate knowledge of and acquaintance with the methods of European middlemen, and that knowledge would immediately be placed at the disposal of his compatriots when it was not utilised by himself—were he dismissed as an unnecessary incubus. Who that lives in the Far East believes for a moment that he would be content to be snuffed out as a burden and a nuisance without making any effort at retaliation? Who can claim that foreign trade in China is not, on the whole, admirably served by the compradores, with their myriad interests and wide sympathy with those of their fellow subjects with whom they have commercial connection? Not the great business firms established in China apparently, otherwise why this apathy when the question of doing away with the compradore system is mooted. It is all very well for a Blackburn Chamber of Commerce to say that young Englishmen who have an inclination to engage as assistants in British houses in China should learn the Chinese language. No doubt that is so, and such a knowledge in addition to their stock in trade would do them good to help to modify that ineffable conceit which is the hall-mark of the great majority of foreignists when they come into contact with Chinese dealers. But who, with any appreciation of the situation, will go farther and say that it will result in the relations between foreign traders and Chinese dealers being improved to such an extent that the compradore will become a virtual curiosity? The Blackburn Chamber of Commerce said—"Speaking generally of foreign merchants, unless they are going to do more in the future than they are doing at present, they will have to go, and our agents at home ought to send out agents who thoroughly understand their business

and who must learn to speak the Chinese language"; and again: "It is absolutely certain that an up-country buyer, because of his ignorance of any foreign language, is compelled to do business through the compradores which means that it must be done on the gentlemen's terms or not at all. The merchant is no longer a merchant but simply the agent for the compradore, the latter doing all the work—finding customers, selling to them, and guaranteeing the accounts. This position has gradually grown out of the easy-going habits of the merchants and through their inability to speak Chinese." All that bundle of platitudes makes a very fine showing, but it does not prove that if a British seller were to operate without the assistance of a Chinese compradore he would be any the more successful. The fact is that the compradore is an institution which has grown up in China, and it is useless to suppose an unforeseen cataclysm of nature eradicates his existence. One correspondent who ridicules the assertion that the compradore can be abolished remarks: "I would like to emphasise the point that unless a man has a formal and proper introduction to Chinese merchants it is considered absolute rudeness and a breach of etiquette to attempt dealing direct for which you are sure to be snubbed and treated with contumely. This is a view which is not sufficiently realised by those who condemn the system. China, Chinese customs and Chinese business methods must be considered when dealing in China, and if you don't know or understand them my opinion is stick to your compradore always or you will be landed in an unenviable abyss of claims, etc." The attempt at direct dealing, going up country with your own piece goods, etc., has been tried off and on for years by Britons speaking Chinese; it has never proved successful. Your take cargo 300 or 1,500 miles from Shanghai and the Chinese dealers of those districts will leave you alone, a derelict, virtually without business or occupation and the question remains how long can any one wait unless he is a Chinaman? Again there is no money in any of these districts and you must therefore accept native bank orders, and you must be a Chinaman to know whether the bank is sound or that some unscrupulous dealer is not at work. To sum up the whole matter it is madness for traders to go up country whilst the financial conditions remain unaltered or until the banking and currency are put on a satisfactory basis. It is losing the substance in a vain attempt to achieve the impossible. There we may allow the matter to rest, confident that if the leading banks, shipping companies and industrial undertakings and if advantageous to retain the services of a compradore and his staff a drastic measure such as that implied in the assertions of those who know little or nothing of the actual conditions is wholly out of the question and a merely visionary project which would probably result in the general decay of foreign trade with the Chinese dealers.

CHINESE COMPRADORES.

(13th April.)

In reference to our leading article on Saturday on the subject of the compradore system, it is interesting to note what a contributor to the *Shanghai China Gazette*, who signs himself "Cosmos," has to say. He writes:—"Referring to the subject of compradore generally, and to the decline, or so-called decline, of the Chinese commercial community as a class, reference to which has on recent occasions been made in the columns of the *China Gazette*, I beg to say that while I agree in the main with the sentiments expressed in recent leaders to the effect that the present-day compradores and merchants are not the soul of honour, I am not altogether inclined to agree with you that they are in this respect very much worse than their progenitors. Of course, I must admit that I know very little about the old time compradores whose word was as good as his bond, as his class, if they ever exist, were before my time, but I have had the pleasure of the acquaintance of some of the retired foreign merchants of those days, and while they have been able to set by a good store of this world's goods, in spite of a surprisingly colossal ignorance of things Chinese, I do not, simply going by that as a criterion, take everything they say for gospel truth. Really, I must laugh sometimes when I hear them say how they owe their fortune to the integrity and honesty of the compradore they employed. What they say is of course true, in this respect, at least. Living as strangers in a strange land, without attempting to learn anything about it; seldom, if ever going beyond the limits of the Foreign Settlements, they were quite content, so long as their transactions brought them a profit, and making good profits was an easy matter in those days. Not, however, because the compradores and native merchants were honest, far from it. It was simply the lack of competition. If the compradore had been honest they would have reaped ten times the profit that they did. The other nine-tenths went to the compradore, and he kept up his bluff about 'his word and his bond' so beautifully that the old time foreigner was not able to detect it—which is not surprising, as he was generally an obtuse sort of a gentleman, and besides he was getting a good profit so he had no reason to be suspicious. But things are different now. Plans don't drop from the tree in these days while the merchant goes to sleep under it. It is now a matter of almost a paradox. If it were true, that with the increase of reform in China, the moral tone of the Chinese community were declining, the

foreign merchant in these days to be successful must have at least a smattering knowledge of the Chinese and their country, and it is in the process of gaining this knowledge that he has to come to the conclusion that the present-day compradore is a degenerated product. But, although his knowledge is correct, the conclusion he draws is wrong. The latter-day compradore is not a degenerate. He is one of the same old brand. The only difference is that the present-day foreign trader has been getting on 'to him—as the Americans say."

MORE CLASS LEGISLATION IN HONGKONG.

(15th April.)

At the last meeting of the Sanitary Board an important resolution involving a distinct question of principle with regard to the rights of the Chinese community in Hongkong was introduced by Mr. Shelton Hooper, seconded by Dr. Fitzwilliams and passed by six votes to three, the minority including the President of the Board and the two Chinese representatives. On the face of it the resolution was of a most innocuous character, being merely to effect "That as the new cemetery bye-laws prohibit the burning of joss sticks and firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery it is desirable for the Government to select a new site and authorise a cemetery for the interment of bodies of persons of the Buddhist and other non-Christian faiths, and for whom no special cemetery has been provided—where it may be lawful for the practice of any rites and ceremonies pertaining to the religion of the deceased." In speaking to the motion thus set forth, Mr. Hooper, who had evidently been well primed on the subject, delving into musty tomes and recalling bygone days, quite clearly showed that he anticipated opposition from the representatives of the Chinese race, payers—who, after all, are no insignificant section of the population of this Colony—and went out of his way to obscure the real point at issue. He referred to "the flag," which is always a certain attraction and a source of mental myopia, the protection afforded all our fellow subjects, the justice meted out under the British constitution to all and sundry, and he even hinted at the glorious traditions of the past. If we assume the speaker to be a Burke or a Pitt such language is all very fine and large, but what it has to do with cemeteries we cannot pretend to understand. Incidentally, Mr. Hooper spoke of the desire of those professing the Buddhist religion to have a cemetery of their own where they might practise the rites and ceremonies according to their burial service, but he added no particulars to show that he had been given a mandate to plead for the followers of that or any other religion. What he did do was to envelop the question in such a misty haze of history, which was neither applicable nor interesting, as to obfuscate the vision of those members of the Board who failed to realise that they were battering away the unquestionable and irrefragable rights of the Chinese born and bred in this Colony of Hongkong. Still further to avoid the issue, reference was made to the origin of the word "colonial" as applied to the public cemetery, as if a display of recalcitrant knowledge had anything to do with the matter, while Mr. Hewitt dwelt on the desire of the Government or somebody else to provide all denominations with special cemeteries, and twitted both Mr. Lau Chu Pak and Mr. Ho Kom Tong with speaking "a little bit off the line" whereas, to our way of thinking, they were the only persons who were exactly on the line. To begin with, it should be understood that this cannot be viewed as a party, racial or sectarian question; it is a matter which affects most of us but little in this life and for that reason we can approach it without bias or feeling. It is not even a question of cemeteries so much as it is one of general principle. We can come to view it from a purely disinterested point of view, although it is apparent that Dr. Fitzwilliams entirely failed to realise its import when he seconded the adoption of the motion. The Colonial or Protestant—or whatever fancy name anybody may wish to call it—the public cemetery of Hongkong is maintained out of the rates and taxes provided by the residents in the Colony. It is no more a private institution than the public gardens—only it is governed by rules and regulations consonant with decency and respect for the dead. Even the Protestants cannot claim it for their very own; it is the public burial place of Hongkong maintained by the public, or rather by the Government, which comes to the same thing, out of general revenue. No sect or body has a right to say that it has any particular claim on the domain, but so far as we can move out all have an equal right to interment there. If the Roman Catholics and the Zoroastrians prefer to have cemeteries of their own which they maintain themselves under the laws of the Colony and subject to the supervision of the Government, then that is their own business. They interfere with nobody, ask nothing from the public purse, and seek only to act according to the tenets of their particular religion. That is as it should be, but when it comes to a question of the public cemetery the scene is changed, so to speak. If a number of individuals have a certain brand of religion and wish to practise last rites in God's Acre in their own particular fashion, and at the same time are prepared to pay for the privilege, well, there is nothing more to be said. This is a free or, at least, a comparatively free Colony and every resident has a right to his opinions so long as they do not conflict with law and order. But where the general public maintain a public burial place, the

public have a perfect right to demand certain rights and privileges in connection with it, and to declare that no section of the community shall be exclusively favoured to the prejudice of the many. But that is exactly what the Sanitary Board and those who supported the resolution are seeking to do. They would exclude the Chinese from the right of burial in the public cemetery, even although the Chinese are perfectly willing to abide in the strictest sense by each and all of the regulations framed by a beneficent and paternal Government for the due observance of the proprieties as such places in public cemeteries. The fact of the matter is that this sort of petty municipal legislation is all of a piece with the policy of the Government in reserving special lands for the *bon ton* of the Colony. First they decreed that in life the Chinese should not live in the vicinity of the Peak and now in death the Chinese are not deemed fitting occupants of lairs in the public cemetery. The whole thing is so supremely ridiculous that it would be farcical if the subject did not preclude one from dealing in such a manner with a subject serious in itself and in the principle underlying the motive which appears to have given rise to the motion. As Mr. Lau Chu Pak in denouncing this latest example of class legislation remarked: "Those Chinese who made use of the Colonial cemetery were chiefly the British born; the British naturalised, the Christian converted and the Eurasian Chinese, and recently Japanese had also made use of it. As these people had already been admitted into the European 'paradise' on earth, he thought it was scarcely fair to 'debar them from using the passage to the European paradise after death.' The better class of Chinese who had made Hongkong their permanent home had not a decent cemetery in which to bury their dead, and the Chinese had no control in what were called Chinese cemeteries. Those cemeteries were simply tracts of barren land set apart by the Government for the burial of Chinese dead of any class. The Government reserved to itself the right of resuming the land and ordering the remains to be exhumed and buried anywhere else as the Government might from time to time be pleased to direct. Fancy the outcry there would be among the elite if the remains of their predecessors were subject to removal at the whim and caprice of some insignificant official in a Government Department. That in itself should constitute a plea for the Chinese that they have a right of interment in the Colonial cemetery. As Mr. Ho Kom Tong very properly pointed out, from his inquiries, instances of cracker-firing in the Colonial cemetery had been few and far between. Even granting, for the sake of argument, that it was a general practice, there was already in existence the necessary legal machinery to regulate it, in order to reduce to a minimum the so-called objectionable observances, according to the orthodox rituals of those belonging to the Buddhist persuasion. There is the whole matter in a nutshell. Moreover, it was stated by the senior representative of the Chinese that the majority of Chinese and other citizens 'belonged to no particular religious denomination' so that they could not likely injure the sentimental ideas of those who did profess a certain faith while they remained amongst the living. As we have already said the resolution to exclude Chinese from the public cemetery is on a par with the Peak Reservation scheme, and we can only add that we are astonished that Mr. Hooper should have been the one to father such unworthy progeny or that Dr. Fitzwilliams should have been found to act the part of the benign godparent. We trust, however, that the Governor-in-Council will veto the plan and accord our Chinese fellow subjects the undoubted rights to which they are plainly entitled.

CHINA'S CAPABILITIES.

Some writer in the *Shanghai Mercury* has been doing his utmost to malign the Chinese character and their ability. His trouble is about the "regeneration of a decadent race." It is astonishing in these circumstances to find that the Powers do not consider China either a backward country or one given to such foolish transactions as distinguish the principality of Bulgaria. The writer in question is most serious when he says: "The task is the task which China has set herself; the means are Chinese means. Few people have ever stopped to consider the magnitude of the work which China must accomplish before she can attain the object she has at heart, and of these few we very much doubt if there is even one who can claim either Chinese or Manchu descent. The task has been begun and its burdens assumed with no clear understanding of the impossibility of the labour, the complexity of the scheme, or the world-wide knowledge required for its successful achievement. Let there be light, is the native reformer's fiat, but it is altogether another question whether the concluding section of the sentence will read, 'and there was light.' Of course, it may be taken for granted that the author of such an effrontery none other than a disappointed individual—perhaps, we only suggest it as a reminiscence, a missionary. China, we are told, has to tackle two or three subjects, the first of which is law. The *Westminster* is referred to, but the unwritten law came not from the vision but from China herself. Even the American codification admits that. As the writer says of his point of view, 'I am writing as a foreigner, and following Western custom, although of course the same does not apply in one sense, and more, since the introduction of printing, for the first time to be committed to the

There was a more or less complete selection of local maxims and treasured judgments. "Unwritten Law," however, is strictly that of which no origin can be traced, as opposed to "Statute Law" of which we know the beginning and the end. Now China has a vast mass of such law, some of it extremely good and most of it (in theory) admirably suited to Chinese character and requirements. In theory only, he it remembered, for a very superficial acquaintance with Chinese proverbial lore is sufficient to show that between the excellence of a law and the excellence of its administration there is a gulf as wide as that between heaven and Hades. It is plain, therefore, that there is a double task before the Chinese in this connection. First they must convert their judges to justice, and secondly they must bring their heterogeneous mass of legal tradition to a modern code, and then collate it with an equally vast mass of western law, for that is what they have set out to do. How many of them have ever put foot within the law library of an up-to-date barrister or solicitor? How many of them know anything at all of the many specialists that there are in connection with western law? And have any of them, considered how many Chinese there are, fitted for such a task as the compilation of such a code? The hand of the layman can be deciphered there. And read the ridiculous similes—"If we turn to educational matters, the same difficulty confronts us. It is hardly too much to say that there is not a Chinaman alive who is competent to draw up a national scheme of education for the kindergarten to the university. There are many Chinese who have graduated from colleges and universities in England, America, and elsewhere, but that does not make them authorities on education any more than travelling by sea makes the captain of a ship a competent naval architect." Anybody can see the futility of such a remark. Fortunately the Chinese, themselves are not obsessed by the idea of their own importance. Indeed the Chinese can see things clearly. Surely, the very fact that they send students at the Government expense to Europe and America is proof positive that their alleged decadence is a myth. Another thing: "It is probably unknown to China the extent to which the European nations have drawn upon each other for help in this respect. American development has been very largely built on the ability of the men she got from England. At this moment there are many English professors in her colleges. Now she is returning the benefit in a hundred different ways. The same is true of the relationship of England with other lands. We learnt silk work from France, and wool from Holland. In return we taught them railway construction and so on. Hundreds of other instances might be adduced. If then China were to civil in skilled assistance from the outside she might then make her start on the right lines, and everything depends on that. Japan did so. Without expert help we are convinced that China's efforts must end in failure, and then will be proved the truth of the prophecies of her enemies, that she is incapable of progress and must be treated accordingly." And this is the nation that is supposed to be decadent. Our only wonder is that this Mercury should have given publicity to such statements founded on sand and built on hypothesis. China was never more virile or vigorous than she is at the present time and to paraphrase an old saying, China will be China when nations (of the West) peter out.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

RUSSIA AND CHINA. BRITISH AND AMERICAN MEDIATION.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 7th April. The British and American Ministers in Peking are trying to bring about an amicable settlement (between the Russian authorities and Chinese) of the dispute (arising from the levying of municipal taxation) in Harbin.

H.E. TANG SHAO-YI.

HONoured BY THE KAISER.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 7th April. H.E. Tang Shao-yi, in a telegraphic message, reports that a German Order has been conferred upon him by H. I. M. the Kaiser. Imperial sanction has been granted to the Special Envoy to wear the insignia of the Order.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

THE MANCHURIAN DIFFERENCES.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 7th April. The Grand Council in a representation has urged the Japanese Government to withdraw the guards from the Pakumien Railway. This Japanese Consul at Fengtien has declined to comply with the Chinese representation.

FOREIGN NEGOTIATIONS.

REPORTS TO BE PUBLISHED.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 7th April. The Waiwupu has decided that all negotiations with Foreign

Powers, unless of a confidential character, will be published for the information of the people.

RAILWAY DISBURSEMENTS.

TO BE MADE IN DOLLARS.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 8th April. The Ministries of Finance and of Posts and Communications have come to an arrangement that all receipts and payments in connection with railways will be made in dollars.

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

HEAVY LOSS.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 8th April. The losses of the Postal Department for last year are estimated at over 100,000 (2 taels).

NAVAL REORGANISATION.

LARGE APPROPRIATIONS.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 8th April. The Ministry of Finance has set aside Tls. 2,700,000 from the opium revenue towards the naval reorganisation scheme.

NA TUNG.

INQUIRIES BY THE REGENT.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 8th April. The Prince Regent has directed Luk Chun-lum to call on Na Tung and inquire after his health, and at the same time to convey him a message that he is expected to resume his duties after the period of one hundred days from the death of his mother has expired.

VICEROY OF YUNNAN.

HIS FAREWELL AUDIENCE.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 8th April. H.E. Lei King-hoi, Viceroy designate of Yunnan and Kweichow, is awaiting the arrival of Sik Liang at Peking (to-day) before having a farewell audience of the Prince Regent upon starting for his new post.

THE PRATAS ISLAND.

A VALUABLE POSSESSION.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 9th April. A telegraphic despatch has been received from Viceroy Chang Jue-chun by the Grand Council reporting that Pratas Island is very rich in products and that during the two years' occupation by the Japanese they must have exported several million dollars' worth of produce.

TIBET.

ITS IMPECUNIOUS CONDITION.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 9th April. The contemplated reforms in Tibet cannot be carried out for want of funds. The Grand Councillors, therefore, called upon the Senior Amban for a return of all the mines within the territory.

HANKOW-ICHANG RAILWAY.

JAPANESE ENGINEERS OFFERED.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 9th April. Mr. Ijima, the Japanese Minister in Peking, has asked Chang Chih-tung to engage Japanese engineers for the Hankow-Ichang Railway.

LAGUO CONFERENCE.

APPOINTMENT OF CHINESE.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 9th April. The President of the Waiwupu has memorialized in person that, in view of the advent of the next Hague Conference, special officials should be appointed with instructions to prepare the various matters for discussion at the conference.

SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT.

EXTENSION.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 12th April. A mass meeting of the Chinese was held yesterday at Ming Lun Tong (Hall) to oppose the extension of the foreign settlement in Shanghai.

It was decided to telegraph to the Waiwupu (a brief report of the proceedings) to be followed by the dispatch of a representative to Peking who will transmit *via* codes a full report of the proceedings at the meeting.

H.E. SIK LIANG.

ARRIVAL AT PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Hankow, 12th April. H.E. Sik Liang, ex-Viceroy of Yunnan, arrived at Hankow on the 11th inst., and intends leaving by special train for Peking on the 15th inst.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

THE GERMAN LOAN.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 12th April. The British Minister in Peking has telegraphed to the Foreign Office in London urging the British Government to demand an explanation from the German Government regarding the proposed loan for the Canton-Hankow Railway and to hold China responsible for the breach of the Chekiang Agreement.

IMPERIAL PALACE.

ENORMOUS TREASURE.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 12th April. By direction of the Empress Dowager, the Superintendent of Imperial Household has taken stock of the treasure in the Palace. He finds that there are Tls. 12,000,000 gold and Tls. 90,000,000 of silver.

CANTON-MACAO RAILWAY.

A JOINT AGREEMENT.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 13th April. The Portuguese Minister in Peking considers the cancellation of the Canton-Macao Railway agreement to be a loss of prestige to his country and has applied to the Waiwupu to have the line built as a joint Luso-Chinese undertaking.

EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY.

PRINCE REGENT'S INSTRUCTION.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 13th April. The Prince Regent has given instructions to the Waiwupu to take steps to abolish *likin* and extra-territorial rights.

PLAGUE IN PEKING.

A SEVERE OUTBREAK.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 13th April. There is a severe outbreak of plague in Peking. Several deaths have occurred in Luk Ching-lum's residence.

MINISTER TO BERLIN.

ARRIVAL OF CHINA'S REPRESENTATIVE.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 13th April. The Chinese Minister to Berlin has reported his arrival at the German capital on the 12th inst.

SHOWING THE FLAG.

CHINESE CRUISERS IN SINGAPORE.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 13th April. Wong Tai-ching, the officer in charge of the Chinese cruisers visiting the Southern Seas, reported his arrival at Singapore on the 12th inst.

EUNUCHS.

TO BE DONE AWAY WITH.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 13th April. The Prince Regent is of opinion that the decision for the abolition of the eunuch system must rest with the Empress Dowager.

YUNNAN VICEROYALTY.

THE VICEROY DESIGNATE.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 13th April. Let King-hoi, Viceroy designate of Yunnan, will start for his new post at the end of the month after an interview with H.E. Sik Liang.

ASSAULT BY JUNKMEN.

PETROLEUM CO. S. S. AT ATTACKED.

[From Our Own Correspondent]

Shanghai, 15th April.

11.45 a.m.

An attack was made, on Monday, near Qianan, by junkmen, on the motor launch of the Asiatic Petroleum Co.

The launch, which was damaged, managed to escape. The passengers were not seriously hurt.

ANTI-OPIMUM CAMPAIGN.

MORE REGULATIONS.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 14th April. The Anti-Opium Commissioners have submitted another set of ten regulations dealing with the prohibition of the opium habit.

SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT.

EXTENSION.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 14th April. The various Foreign Ministers in Peking have again pressed their claim for an extension of the foreign settlement in Shanghai.

The Central Government is just as firm as ever in opposing it.

CHINA MERCHANTS S. N. CO.

CONTEMPLATED OFFICIAL CONTROL.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 14th April. As soon as Viceroy Young Shichang arrives in Peking, it is proposed by the Ministry of Posts and Communications to arrange for taking over the management of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co.

WEN TSUNG YAO.

ARRIVAL IN TIBET.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 14th April. Wen Tsung-yao (formerly foreign secretary to the Viceroy at Canton, now Junior Amban in Tibet, has reported his arrival in Tibet.

He recommends that H.E. Chiu I-fong, Senior Amban, should be urged to proceed to Lhasa.

SIK LIANG.

ARRIVAL IN PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 14th April. H.E. Sik Liang, Viceroy designate of the Three Eastern Provinces, arrived in Peking yesterday.

PRINCE CHING.

ON SICK LEAVE.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 14th April. Prince Ching is on sick leave. His Highness is suffering from pains in the side.

ENGLAND AND SIAM.

THE RECENT TREATY.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 14th April. The Waiwupu regards the recently concluded Treaty between Great Britain and Siam as detrimental to the interests of Chinese residents in Siam, and proposes to take measures to improve the interests of Chinese subjects there.

FOREIGNERS IN MONGOLIA.

TRAVELLING PRIVILEGE CURTAILED.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 14th April. The Central Government has telegraphed instructions to the Three Eastern Provinces to prevent foreigners from travelling in Mongolia. Viceroy Hou Shi-chang has telegraphed, in reply, stating that it would be difficult to comply with the instructions lest the friendly feelings of the Powers might be offended.

TANG SHAO-YI.

ARRIVAL IN ST. PETERSBURG.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 15th April. Tang Shao-yi has arrived in St. Petersburg, and will shortly return to China by the Trans-Siberian route.

EMPEROR KWANG-SU'S FUNERAL.

ACCOMMODATION OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 15th April.

The Waiwupu has telegraphed to Lord Li Ching-fong, Chinese Minister to the Court of St. James, to ascertain what was the treatment accorded to the representatives of the various Powers on the occasion of the funeral of the late Queen Victoria.

CHINESE CONSULATES.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT IN DUTCH POSSESSIONS.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 15th April. The Waiwupu has decided to establish consulates in Dutch colonial possessions and has telegraphed to the Chinese Minister to the Netherlands to inquire and report on the ports where it is deemed expedient consulates should be established.

PRINCE CHING.

RESUMES DUTIES.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 15th April. Prince Ching, having returned from his leave of absence, has since resumed his duties.

CIVIL SERVICE CRICKET CLUB.

NEW PAVILION OPENED.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Yesterday afternoon, a very interesting ceremony was performed by H.E. the Governor, when a handsome pavilion in place of the match which had hitherto done duty for the pavilion of the Civil Service Cricket Club was opened under very auspicious conditions. There was a large gathering of members and friends who came to witness the ceremony. H.E. the Governor, who was accompanied by Capt. P. Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., and Capt. Simon, Private Secretary, was met on arrival by Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, President of the Club. Among the present were Hon. Mr. F. H. May (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Mrs. Chatham, Miss Chatham, Mr. J. Gompertz and Mrs. Gompertz, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Mr. R. O. Hutchison, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. Clark, Mr. Arratoon Seth, Mr. J. R. Wood, and Mr. Gray Scott.

On approaching the Club-house, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, His Excellency was presented with a silver key which bore the following words in engraved letters:—"Presented to His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., by the Civil Service Cricket Club, April 14th, 1900."

The President of the Club, addressing the Governor, said:—"Your Excellency, it is my agreeable duty to ask you to open the Civil Service Cricket Club pavilion which has been erected by the members by the money raised among themselves. The fact that they have succeeded in raising the sum to erect such a handsome building proves that they have very real life interest in their Club, and I hope it may long continue. Your Excellency's presence will stimulate that interest. I would ask your Excellency to open the building."

His Excellency then replied as follows to the gathering:—"Ladies and Gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in opening this pavilion, and I wish success to the Civil Service Club. I hope you will witness from this charming pavilion many excellent matches, and that the Club will continue to prosper as it has done in the past. I have now very much pleasure in opening the building (Chiam)."

His Excellency then unlocked the door with the silver key with which he was presented, after which, His Excellency asked those present to drink to the success of the Civil Service Cricket Club.

The toast having been honoured, Hon. Mr. Chatham thanked His Excellency for proposing success to the Civil Service Cricket Club, and asked the gathering to give three cheers for His Excellency, which were lustily accorded, together with a "bravo."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, games of lawn bowls and tennis were played, at which H.E. the Governor was an interested spectator.

LADIES' RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

FIRST DAY'S SHOOTING.

We have been favoured by the hon. secretary of the Ladies' Rifle Association with the scores for the first day's shooting.

75 YARDS SCRATCH.

In this competition Mrs. Rivland scored the highest number of marks with Miss F. Hoffmann and Miss Beth, second and third places, respectively. The detailed scores are—

Mrs. Rivland	51
Mrs. F. Hoffmann	47
Mrs. Beth	45
Miss Shaw	27
Miss Hooper	27
Mrs. Shellim	25
Miss Chapman	25
Mrs. Gompertz	24
Mrs. Ormiston	24
Mrs. Bailey	24
Mrs. Worthington	23
Miss Nicholson	23
Miss M. Loureiro	22
Mrs. Bayard	21
Mrs. Scott-Harrison	21
Miss Wilkinson	20

75 YARDS HANDICAP.

In the 75 yds. Handicap, Mrs. Murray (35) scored the highest number of points, with Mrs. Bailey (35) second, and Mrs. Rivland (35) 3rd. The full results are as follows:

Mrs. Murray	25
Mrs. Bailey	23
Mrs. Rivland	20
Mrs. Chapman	19
Miss Chapman	17
Mrs. Bayard	16
Mrs. Worthington	15
Mrs. Hooper	15
Mrs. Ormiston	14
Miss Beth	13
Miss F. Hoffmann	12
Miss Nicholson	11
Miss M. Loureiro	10
Mrs. Rowe	10
Mrs. Gompertz	10
Mrs. Shellim	10
Mrs. Wakeman	10
Mrs. Gompertz	10
Miss Wilkinson	10

STABBING AFFRAY AT KOWLOON.

SOLDIER SERIOUSLY HURT; MARVELLOUS ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Kowloon, 15th April.

A case concerning the Indian regiment at Kowloon—to wit the 13th Rajputs, was heard in the Police Court, this afternoon. Reginald Singh and Sushil Singh, both charged with maliciously wounding one Sawai Singh, in barracks, on the 14th ult., were brought before the court. Mr. J. H. Gardiner, of the firm of Messrs. Reardon and Kelly appeared for the defendants. Inspector Landry, of the Police Station, conducted the case on behalf of the prosecution.

Mr. Gardiner:—In this case, your Worship, I don't think there is any evidence. It is only hearsay evidence. There was no eye-witness to the occurrence, and what evidence it is to be called to-day will only be formal.

Inspector Landry said that he would rather not call any witnesses to-day, as the wounded man was not expected to leave hospital for another fortnight.

Witnesses, however, were called, the first being Corpl. Kahn Singh, of the 13th Rajputs. He deposed that just before the occurrence, he was in the room which he occupied. The injured man occupied the same room. Suspicion fell on no one. No body was accused of the theft.

The Court:—Had there been any quarrel between the injured man and the defendant?—No.

When did you first hear of the stabbing?—The first defendant told me of the fight.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

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BIRTHS.

On February 12, 1909, at Chai-nai du Mont D'Orel, Cateau, Dordogne, France, the wife of Louis Rocher (Commissioner of Customs, retired), of a son—JEAN.

On March 7, 1909, at Dunmow, Essex, wife of E. T. BOND, formerly of Canton, daughter.

BEILIOS—On April 8th, at Green Park House, 134 Piccadilly, London, the wife of Mr. R. E. BEILIOS, of a son. (By Wire).

MARRIAGES.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HERMANN ARIZ, eldest son of Carl Ariz, of Brauns, to Valérie MARGARET, daughter of the late Professor Peter Bobocsov of Budapest.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, CLAUDE J. G., and son of the late John Hill, of Manchester, to MARION ERIK, 3rd daughter of the late Richard Forster of Durham, and Mrs. Forster, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On the 14th April, at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, by the Rev. O. E. Thompson, B.A., MAUD WILKINSON, daughter of the late William Wilkin, Treasurer of Hongkong, to Thomas, son of the late William Layland, Member of Council.

DEATHS.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HARRY HENDERSON OWLER, of Panick, near Glasgow, aged 35 years, "Electrician with the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd."

On April 6, 1909, at Shanghai, HILDA BEA TRAM, aged 21 months, dearly beloved daughter of Captain and Mrs. F. Lloyd.

The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

CHINESE RAILWAYS AND FINANCES.

(16th April.)

Whether the representatives of Great Britain through the British Minister at Peking with reference to the proposed German loan for the purpose of constructing a section of the Canton-Hankow line will bear fruit is still open to question, but there is reason to believe that British investors in Chinese railway stocks are becoming chary of entrusting their money unless the Chinese Imperial Government is prepared to give ample security in return. This feeling of doubt with regard to the capability of the Chinese Government to carry the responsibilities she has undertaken in this direction is emphasised by the Peking correspondent of the London Times who recently sent a somewhat alarmist report to his paper regarding the Shanghai-Hankow-Ningpo railway. It must not be forgotten that Dr. Morrison is apt to indulge in gloomy prognostications when things are dull and equally inclined to indulge in optimistic reviews when the mood is upon him. As the result of an inspection of the line in question Dr. Morrison presented serious charges of incompetence against the constructors and suggested that the capital supplied by British investors was being squandered. Then there was a statement issued by the Board of Communications giving the results of the working of the principal lines, shown a profit on the working of most of the northern lines but a considerable loss on others, more especially the Shanghai-Nanking Railway. There have also been reports that the different sections of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway are not making equally satisfactory progress, and lately the Associate Director of that railway was in Shanghai en route to Pukow to make an inspection of the Southern section of the line, while the statement was made a few days ago that the Viceroy has appointed an able British engineer to make an inspection of the Shanghai-Hankow-Ningpo Railway, with a view to ascertaining whether or not Dr. Morrison's criticisms are well-founded. As a Northern contemporary points out there is reason to believe that all this activity is due to the operations of rival syndicates and that, in consequence, the reports are not always to be implicitly trusted. A writer in the Mercury of Shanghai holds that the heavy loss reported in the working of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway during the past year proves that the fact that a line has been splendidly constructed and supplied with irreproachable rolling stock is not sufficient to ensure its being run on a paying basis. "It must be well managed, which no doubt the Shanghai-Nanking line is, and besides be able to secure profitable traffic, which apparently the Shanghai-Nanking line cannot do, notwithstanding the fact that it traverses one of the richest districts of China. The Chinese Government, however, seems to be awakening to the fact that all is not well with the railway, as it is announced in a native telegram from Peking that the Board of Communications intends to send a high official to investigate, along with the Governor of Kiangsu, into the causes of the heavy loss incurred in the year's working of the line, and mention is made of revising the freight regulations. In this connection the Peking and Tientsin Times has recently published a suggestive article dealing with the financial position of Chinese railways, with special reference to the Canton-Hankow section of the grand trunk line. It is well understood, says our contemporary, that China is at present negotiating a loan of some four millions sterling, in order to finance the construction of four hundred miles of the railway between Hankow and Canton. Per-chances of success, however, can hardly be rated very highly, for several reasons must militate against her in the judgment of British financiers. The Chinese Government has no reputation for efficiency in constructional undertakings of this kind. The Imperial Chinese Revenue is very inelastic under present conditions, and its figures demonstrate how utterly inadequate that Revenue is as security for a loan. The present foreign debt of China amounts to £175,000,000, which has been almost entirely contracted within the last thirteen years. To pay the interest on that debt a sum of seven and a half millions is required, of which it is estimated that productive works supply about a million. The charge on the Imperial Revenue is, therefore, six and a half millions sterling, to provide which the revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs and part of the Provincial revenues are hypothequated—and there remains but a balance of some six millions sterling to meet the purposes of the ordinary expenditure. That sum is obviously insufficient even to meet executive expenses; and it is notorious that additional money has to be scraped together each year in order to make good the deficit. Nor does it appear that the revenue can be expanded—and in these circumstances it is very doubtful whether China can give the

required security for the large loan that is required. The true policy, of course, says the London Globe, of March 4, is to place the contract for building the line with European engineers, in which case the work would be done more cheaply, more efficiently and without any financial difficulty. So far our contemporaries. From the Hongkong reader's standpoint all these things have been said before and will in all likelihood be repeated in the near future. But if China's ability to offer the necessary security to those able and willing to lend loans for constructional purposes, is so inadequate why all this fuss over the question whether Germany or Great Britain be allowed to undertake the work? The fact seems to be that the home and foreign press is being manipulated by financial speculators who are well aware that China is in a position to offer all the security required, and who are only seeking to deflect the attention of gullible investors from the real issues at stake. Great Britain has a perfect right to demand that China should observe to the letter her treaty obligations but beyond that she cannot go, just as she is unable to compel China to accept proffered capital even if it is at a lower rate and more favourable than that offered by other Powers. The whole subject resolves itself into a diplomatic tangle which it seems hardly possible to unravel at the moment, and the probability is that we shall hear of negotiations taking place over the question for years to come. Meanwhile China has no difficulty in getting the money she requires for the construction of new railways in the Middle Kingdom, and that, after all, is the main issue from the point of view of those concerned with the real interests of the Empire, and its prosperity and advancement in the path of progress.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMPRODOR SYSTEM.

The question whether European merchants trading in China can succeed in doing business without the interposition of the comprador is once more agitating a section of the foreigners in Tientsin, with the usual result. It is contended that if every European assistant were required to possess a fluent colloquial understanding of the Chinese language the time would speedily arrive when the services of the comprador could be dispensed with and foreign traders would be in a position to deal direct with the Chinese buyer. To those who have given a modicum of study to this question the great fallacy underlying all such propositions is apparent. It seems to be assumed that immediately a foreigner is staffed by assistants of linguistic ability the ordinary Chinese dealer would be content to conduct all his trade operations through the European staff, and that the unfortunate comprador would be relegated to outer darkness. It seems to be forgotten that the Chinese people are becoming more and more averse to the idea of granting foreigners greater facilities of business intercourse than they already possess. In many cases it is extremely probable that the comprador's department is the real bulwark of a foreign firm engaged in Chinese trade, and that were it not for his attachment to the firm with which he may be associated and his general integrity and comparative disinterestedness the trade dealings of many foreign houses would languish and finally disappear. The Chinese are no longer to be regarded as nonentities, incapable of looking after their own interests. They are as alive to the possibilities of trade as any foreign firm, whether it be conducted by British, German, American or Japanese merchants and the elimination of the comprador would only induce Chinese syndicates to spring into being and absorb the trade which is now handled by European houses through the medium of the comprador and his staff. Moreover, the comprador has the business of foreign markets at his finger ends; he has painfully and laboriously acquired the most intimate knowledge of and acquaintance with the methods of European middlemen, and that knowledge would immediately be placed at the disposal of his compatriots when it was not utilised by himself—were he dismissed as an unnecessary incubus. Who that lives in the Far East believes for a moment that he would be content to be snuffed out—as a burden—and a nuisance without making any effort at retaliation? Who can claim that foreign trade in China is not, on the whole, admirably served by the compradores, with their myriad interests and wide sympathy with those of their fellow subjects with whom they have commercial connection? Not the great business firms established in China apparently, otherwise why this apathy when the question of doing away with the comprador system is mooted. It is all very well for a Blackburn Chamber of Commerce to say that young Englishmen who have an inclination to engage assistants in British houses in China should learn the Chinese language. No doubt that is so, and such a knowledge in addition to their stock in trade would do them good to help to modify that ineffable conceit which is the mark of the great majority of foreign strip-lings when they come into contact with Chinese dealers. But who, with any appreciation of the situation, will go farther and say that it will result in the relations between foreign traders and Chinese dealers being improved to such an extent that the compradores will become a virtual curiosity? The Blackburn Chamber of Commerce said:—"Speaking generally of foreign merchants, unless they are going to do more in the future than they are doing at present, they will have to go, and native factors at home ought to send out agents who thoroughly understand their business

and who must learn to speak the Chinese language"; and again:—"It is absolutely certain that an up-country buyer, because of his ignorance of any foreign language, is compelled to do business through the comprador which means that it must be done on that gentleman's terms or not at all. The merchant is no longer a merchant but simply the agent for the comprador, the latter doing all the work—finding customers, selling to them, and guaranteeing the accounts. This position has gradually grown out of the easy-going habits of the merchants and through their inability to speak Chinese." All that bundle of platitudes makes a very fine showing, but it does not prove that if a British seller were to operate without the assistance of a Chinese comprador, he would be any the more successful. The fact is that the comprador is an institution in China, and until it is abolished it will remain so unless some unforeseen cataclysm of nature eradicates his existence. One correspondent who ridicules the assertion that the compradores can be abolished remarks:—"I would like to emphasise the point that unless a man has a formal and proper introduction to Chinese merchants it is considered absolute rudeness and a breach of etiquette to attempt dealing direct for which you are sure to be snubbed and treated with contumely. This is a view which is not sufficiently realised by those who condemn the system. China, Chinese customs and Chinese business methods must be considered when dealing in China, and if you don't know or understand them my opinion is sick to you—comproadors, always or you will be landed in an unfeeling abyss of claims, etc. The attempt at direct dealing, going up country with your own piece goods, etc., has been tried off and on for years by Britons speaking Chinese; it has never proved successful. You take cargo 300 or 1,500 miles from Shanghai and the Chinese dealers of those districts will leave you alone, a derelict, virtually without business or occupation and the question remains how long can any one wait unless he is a Chinaman? Again there is no money in any of these districts and you must therefore accept native bank orders and you must be a Chinaman to know whether the bank is sound or that some undecurrent is not at work. To sum up the whole matter it is madness for traders to go up country whilst the financial conditions remain unaltered or until the banking and currency are put on a satisfactory basis. It is losing the substance in a vain attempt to achieve the impossible." There we may allow the matter to rest, confident that if the leading banks, shipping companies and industrial undertakings find it advantageous to retain the services of a comprador and his staff a drastic measure such as that implied in the asseverations of those who know little or nothing of the actual conditions is wholly out of the question and a merely visionary project which would probably result in the general decay of foreign trade with the Chinese dealers.

CHINESE COMPRADORES.

(13th April.)

In reference to our leading article on Saturday on the subject of the comprador system, it is interesting to note that a contributor to the Shanghai China Gazette, who signs himself "Cosmos" has to say. He writes:—"Referring to the subject of compradores generally, and to the decline, or so-called decline, of the Chinese commercial community as a class, reference to which has on recent occasions been made in the columns of the China Gazette, I beg to say that while I agree in the main with the sentiments expressed in recent leaders to the effect that the present-day compradores and merchants are not the soul of honour, I am not altogether inclined to agree with you that they are in this respect very much worse than their progenitors. Of course, I must admit that I know very little about the old time compradores whose word was as good as his bond, as his class, if they ever existed, were before my time, but I have had the pleasure of the acquaintance of some of the retired foreign merchants of those days, and while they have been able to set by a good store of this world's goods, in spite of a surprisingly colossal ignorance of things Chinese, I do not, simply going by that as a criterion, take anything they say for gospel truth. Really, I must laugh sometimes when I hear them say how they owe their fortune to the integrity and honesty of the comprador they employed. What they say is of course true, in this respect, at least. Living as strangers in a strange land, without attempting to learn anything about it; seldom, if ever going beyond the limits of the Foreign Settlements, they were quite content, so long as their transactions brought them a profit; and making good profits was an easy matter in those days. Not, however, because the compradores and native merchants were honest, far from it. It was simply the lack of competition. If the comprador had been honest they would have reaped ten times the profit that they did. The other nine-tenths went to the comprador, and he kept up his bluff about 'his word and his bond' so beautifully that the old-time foreigner was not able to detect it—which is not surprising, as he was generally an obtuse sort of a gentleman, and besides he was getting a good profit, so he had no reason to be suspicious. But things are different now. Plums don't drop from the tree in these days while the merchant goes to sleep under it. It would be almost a paradox. If it were true that with the increase of Reform in China, the moral tone of the business community were declining, the

foreign merchant in these days to be successful must have at least a smattering knowledge of the Chinese and their country, and it is in the process of gaining this knowledge that he has to come to the conclusion that the present-day comprador is a degenerated product. But, although his knowledge is correct, the conclusion he draws is wrong. The latter-day comprador is not a degenerate. He is one of the same old brand. The only difference is that the present-day foreign trader has been getting on to him—as the Americans say."

MORE CLASS LEGISLATION IN HONGKONG.

(15th April.)

At the last meeting of the Sanitary Board an important resolution involving a distinct question of principle with regard to the rights of the Chinese community in Hongkong was introduced by Mr. Shelton Hooper, seconded by Dr. Fitzwilliams and passed by six votes to three, the minority including the President of the Board and the two Chinese representatives. On the face of it the resolution was of a most innocuous character, being merely to the effect "That as the new cemetery bye-laws prohibit the burning of joss sticks and firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery it is desirable for the Government to select a new site and authorise a cemetery for the interment of bodies of persons of the Buddhist and other non-Christian faiths, and for whom no special cemeteries have been provided—where it may be lawful for the practice of any rites and ceremonies pertaining to the religion of the deceased." In speaking to the motion thus set forth, Mr. Hooper, who had evidently been well primed on the subject, delving into musty tomes and recalling bygone days, quite clearly showed that he anticipated opposition from the representatives of the Chinese ratepayers—who, after all, are no insignificant section of the population of this Colony—and went out of his way to obscure the real point at issue. He referred to "the flag," which is always a certain attraction and a source of mental myopia, the protection afforded all our fellow subjects, the justice meted out, under the British constitution to all and sundry, and he even hinted at the glorious traditions of the past. If we assume the speaker to be a Burke or a Pitt such language is all very fine and large but what it has to do with cemeteries we cannot pretend to understand. Incidentally, Mr. Hooper spoke of the desire of those professing the Buddhist religion to have a cemetery of their own where they might practise the rites and ceremonies according to their burial service; but he adduced no particulars to show that he had been given a mandate to plead for the followers of that or any other religion. What he did do was to envelop the question in such a misty haze of history, which was neither applicable nor interesting, as to obfuscate the vision of those members of the Board who failed to realise that they were bartering away the unquestionable and inalienable rights of the Chinese born and bred in this Colony of Hongkong. Still further to avoid the issue, reference was made to the origin of the word "colonial" as applied to the public cemetery, as if a display of recondite knowledge had anything to do with the matter, while Mr. Hewitt dwelt on the desire of the Government or somebody else to provide all denominations with special cemeteries, and twitted both Mr. Lau Chu Pak and Mr. Ho Kom Tong with speaking "a little bit off the line" whereas, to our way of thinking, they were the only persons who were exactly on the line. To begin with, it should be understood that this cannot be viewed as a party, racial or sectarian question; it is a matter which affects most of us but little, in this life and for that reason we can approach it without bias or feeling. It is not even a question of cemeteries so much as it is one of general principle. We can come to view it from a purely disinterested point of view, although it is apparent that Dr. Fitzwilliams entirely failed to realise its import when he seconded the adoption of the motion. The Colonial or Protestant—or whatever fancy-name anybody may wish to call it—the public cemetery of Hongkong is maintained out of the rates and taxes provided by the residents in the Colony. It is no more a private institution than the public gardens—only it is governed by rules and regulations consonant with decency and respect for the dead. Even the Protestants cannot claim it for their very own; it is the public burial place of Hongkong maintained by the public, or rather by the Government, which comes to the same thing, out of general revenue. No sect or body has a right to say that it has any particular claim on the domain, so far as we can make out all have an equal right to interment there. If the Roman Catholics and the Zoroastrians prefer to have cemeteries of their own which they maintain themselves under the laws of the Colony and subject to the supervision of the Government, then that is their own business. They interfere with nobody, ask nothing from the public purse, and seek only to act according to the tenets of their particular religion. That is as it should be, but when it comes to a question of the public cemetery the scene is changed, so to speak. If a number of individuals have a certain brand of religion and wish to practise last rites in God's Acre in their own particular fashion, and at the same time are prepared to pay for the privilege, well, there is nothing more to be said. This is a free, or, at least, a comparatively free Colony and every resident has a right to his opinions so long as they do not conflict with law and order. But where the general public maintain a public burial place, the

public have a perfect right to demand certain rights and privileges in connection with it, and to declare that no section of the community shall be exclusively favoured to the prejudice of the many. But that is exactly what the Sanitary Board and those who supported the resolution are seeking to do. They would exclude the Chinese from the right of burial in the public cemetery, even although the Chinese are perfectly willing to abide in the strictest sense by each and all of the regulations framed by a beneficent and paternal Government for the due observance of the proprieties at such places as public cemeteries. The fact of the matter is that this sort of petty municipal legislation is all of a piece with the policy of the Government in reserving special lands for the hon ton of the Colony. First they decreed that in life the Chinese should not live in the vicinity of the Peak and now in death the Chinese are not deemed fitting occupants of life in the public cemetery. The whole thing is so supremely ridiculous that it would be farcical if the subject did not preclude one from dealing in such a manner with a subject serious in itself and in the principle underlying the motive which appears to have given rise to the motion. As Mr. Lau Chu Pak in denouncing this latest example of class legislation remarked:—"Those Chinese who made use of the Colonial cemetery were chiefly the British born, the British naturalised, the Christian converted, and the Eurasian Chinese, and recently Japanese had also made use of it. As these people had already been admitted into the European paradise on earth, he thought it was scarcely fair to debar them from using the passage to the European paradise in heaven. The better class of Chinese who had made Hongkong their permanent home had not decent cemetery in which to bury their dead, and the Chinese had no control in what were called Chinese cemeteries. Those cemeteries were simply tracts of barren land set apart by the Government for the burial of Chinese dead of any class. The Government reserved to itself the right of resuming the land and ordering the remains to be exhumed and buried anywhere else as the Government might from time to time be pleased to direct. Fancy the outcry there would be among the elite if the remains of their predecessors were subject to removal at the whim and caprice of some insignificant official in a Government Department. That in itself should constitute a plea for the Chinese that they have a right of interment in the Colonial cemetery. As Mr. Ho Kom Tong very properly pointed out, from his inquiries, instances of cracker-firing in the Colonial cemetery had been few and far between. Even granting, for the sake of argument, that it was a general practice, there was already in existence the necessary legal machinery to regulate it, in order to reduce to a minimum the so-called objectionable observances, according to the orthodox tenets of those belonging to the Buddhist persuasion." There is the whole matter in a nutshell. Moreover, it was stated by the senior representative of the Chinese that the majority of Chinese and other citizens "belonged to no particular religious denomination" so that they could not likely injure the sentimentality of those who did profess a certain faith while they remained amongst the living. As we have already said the resolution to exclude Chinese from the public cemetery is on a par with the Peak Reservation scheme, and we can only add that we are astonished that Mr. Hooper should have been the one to father such unworthy progeny or that Dr. Fitzwilliams should have been found to act the part of the benign godparent. We trust, however, that the Governor-in-Council will veto the plan and accord our Chinese fellow subjects the undoubted rights to which they are plainly entitled.

CHINA'S CAPABILITIES.

Some writer in the Shanghai Mercury has been doing his utmost to malign the Chinese character and their ability. His trouble is about the "regeneration of a decadent race." It is astonishing in these circumstances to find that the Powers do not consider China either a backward country or one given to such foolish transactions as disfiguring the principality of Bulgaria. The writer in question is most serious when he says: "The task is the task which China has set herself; the means are Chinese means. Few people have ever stopped to consider the magnitude of the work which China must accomplish before she can attain the object she has at heart and of these few very much doubt if there is even one who can claim either Chinese or Manchu descent. The task has been begun, and its burdens assumed with no clear understanding of the immensity of the labour, the complexity of the scheme, or the world-wide knowledge required for its successful achievement. Let there be light; let the native reformer flatly but it is altogether another question whether the concluding section of the sentence will read: 'and there was light.' Of course, it may be taken for granted that the author of such an effusion is none other than a disappointed individual—perhaps, we only suggest, as a reminiscence, a missionary. China, we are told, has to tackle two or three subjects, the first of which is law. The law which is cited is, referred to, but the unwritten law came not from the violators, but from China herself. Even the American code itself that. As the writer says on this point: 'In calling it unwritten, we are following western custom although of course the term does not apply in one sense, and never has since the introduction of printing, for one of the first things to be committed to the

LADIES' NIGHT PROVE A HUGE SUCCESS.

The third and last part of the programme contained some excellent examples of legerdemain. Among these was a watch trick, a "Kissing Boy," kindly obliging with his help for the success of the trick. The worthy cellmate betrayed decided signs of nervousness, which, by the way, caused more amusement than the merits of the performance itself. During the progress of the trick, the "boy" was made to drop a watch, which consequently stopped and on being asked to pay the price of the article, it was clearly noticed that there was some doubt in his mind as to the genuineness of the demand. He was also accused of the theft of three similar articles and was highly amused to discover two of them dangling in his coat tails and the third one in the middle of his hand. The "Inexhaustible Bottle" trick was one of the best, and by no means the least. By means of a single animal, both the juror supplied drinks which were varied as they were numerous to a number of people in the auditorium. The bottle was then broken and a High Priest, Ahmaddad, a squealing pig coming from inside, which was the cause of considerable consternation among those who had previously helped themselves to the contents of the inexhaustible bottle. The animal was then put to death. Good luck!

In the Police Court, last Monday morning, a Frenchwoman, giving the name of Marguerite Allemand, was fined \$15 by the magistrate for soliciting in Des Voeux Road on Sunday night.

10th inst.

Dragon Cycle Co., Wang Hing and Ah Loo and Co., also all those who have contributed to the Great Fund.

The following leading article is from the *N. C. D. News* of 6th Inst.—Although it w

A poultry dealer of the Central Market was fined \$5 for unlawfully selling partridges during the season. The prohibited period is between March and September. Detective Sergeant Martin O'Sullivan was the prosecutor.

IMMIGRATION IN BRANICHAL

No questions being asked, the following resolutions were adopted: That the accounts of the Treasurer and the Cashier be approved, and passed—proposed by Chairman and seconded by Mr. H. J. Such.

That Mr. H. J. Such be re-elected director of the company—proposed by Mr. Kupchak and seconded by Mr. Watson.

That Messrs. Lowe, Blighman and Mantle be elected auditors of the company for the year 1900—proposed by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Schneider.

The Chairman then concludes all the business of the day, and transfers the afternoon session to the following month, followed by the adjournment of the association.

The following resolutions shall have a vote of the association, and put before the A. A. M. of the next meeting:

DEFENDED

or that some undercurrent is not at work. To sum up the whole matter it is madness for traders to go up country whilst the financial conditions remain unaltered or until the basic and currency are put on a satisfactory basis. It is losing the substance in a vain attempt to achieve the impossible.

A SHANGHAI Chinaman, named Ong, has been selected by the senior class at Yale University to receive the "Yale University Award for the Most Distinguished Chinese Student."

Members of the Chinese community in New York City are expected to give a luncheon for the Yale student in the city of New York.

Chinamen are expected to give a luncheon for the Yale student in the city of New York.

THE GOVERNOR'S TRIP TO CANTON.

CHINESE NAVAL ESCORT PROVIDED.

[From Our Special Representative.]

Shameen, 7th April.

It may not be generally known that the Governor of Hongkong and party were accorded a special honour to-day upon their arrival within the waters of Canton to assist at the historic ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the station building of the Canton-Kowloon Railway (Imperial Chinese section) of which I am giving you a full and detailed account. [The last part of the account is in the 8th inst. - E.D. H.A.T.] The special mark of honour shown to the head of the Executive in the British Colony is peculiarly gratifying to British residents on the Shamsham Peninsula, the cordial relations subsisting between the representatives of two neighbouring ports whose commercial interests are so interdependent with each other as Canton and Hongkong are.

The official party from Hongkong included His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, Capt. P. H. Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., Capt. Simson, private secretary, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, Colonial Secretary, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, assistant colonial secretary, and Lieut. C. W. Beckwith, assistant harbour master. I learned that the Government tender *Stanley* (commanded by Capt. G. Willoughby), which brought the party up, left Hongkong about a quarter past eleven on Tuesday. When she left Blake Pier the moon was high up and the night was bright. The journey all the way up was a most delightful one with a light pleasant breeze blowing all the time. The *Stanley* passed Tiger Island (Bogue Fort) at dawn proceeding up the river under easy steam. The cruiser *Kiang Yu*, flagship of Admiral Li Chun, and the *Kiang Yu*, were awaiting the arrival of the distinguished visitors. Both the Chinese vessels were dressed in honour of the British Governor. As soon as the *Stanley* passed the cruisers, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and, allowing the *Stanley* the position of honour in the lead, the sister vessels followed in the wake of the tender till Tai-shock Barrier was passed. At this point Admiral Li on the *Kiang Yu* steamed ahead, the sister ship *Kiang Yu* bringing up the rear guard escorting His Excellency and party to the Southern capital. All the way up on either side of the river the Chinese soldiers carrying the numerous flags and banners had turned out for review. Trumpet blowing, drum beating and the usual accompaniments of Chinese merry-making heralded the approach of the *Stanley*. The tender arrived off the Shamsham a little after ten, and was boarded by Mr. H. H. Fox, acting British Consul-General in Canton, and the leading residents in the foreign concession. At the conclusion of the official visits the *Stanley* proceeded to Tai-sha-tau to attend the corner-stone ceremony. A boat from H.M.S. *Morchen* conveyed the official party to the jetty. Upon the conclusion of the ceremony the Governor and suite re-embarked on board the *Stanley*, which steamed back to Shameen, departing from Canton waters on the return journey to Hongkong at 11.30 p.m.

"EMPRESS" LIVER.

WIRELESS INSTALLATION.

14th inst.

We are advised that the Marconi wireless apparatus has been installed on the *Empress of China*, which steamer is due to arrive in Hongkong at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon, and that the *Empress of India* and *Empress of Japan* will be similarly fitted on reaching Vancouver.

A TRIP THROUGH SETUL.

STANNIFEROUS LAND AWAITING THE PROSPECTOR.

"Mincro" sends to the *Bangkok Times* an account of a trip through Setul, a comparatively little known Siamese State to the north of Penang and Kedah. These passages refer more particularly to the natural resources of this district.

The population of Setul is about 5,000, Malays predominating, but there are a good many Chinese and a few Siamese. The roads are level, and well made with deep brick drains, on either side to carry away the surface water, and are kept clean and free from rubbish.

The main road through the State is good for travelling as far as Sungai Dusun, 14 miles, and a new road following the telegraph line from Kampong Ching to Perlis has been traced and partly made, as far as Wang Blachan, but the road requires metalling, and several bridges will have to be built, but I understand there are no funds available for this work, which has to be paid for out of revenue.

On either side of this new road there are large areas of agricultural land, both undulating, available and eminently suitable for rubber or sugar planting and equal to anything in the F. M. S.

The land is well watered, requires little draining, and has the advantage of being served by a good road and within easy distance of a shipping port, whilst the telegraph line traverses the property.

There are also immense areas of stanniferous land waiting for the prospector, and the throwing open of the State by the Government to miners. At the present time Malays and Chinese only are allowed to take land for silting purposes, to the exclusion of the Europeans who could introduce capital and open up the country.

Several large areas have been taken up by Chinese but no actual mining or prospecting has been done, and although the Siamese Mining Regulations apply to the State, there does not appear to be any resident official capable of enforcing them, and all applications for mining or agricultural land must be made direct to Bangkok.

It is difficult to understand why these small States on the Western Coast are not thrown open to foreigners—as are the Eastern States for mining and planting, but the methods of Eastern Governments are proverbially slow.

The writer has spent some months in the State and has come across very old Siamese (the workings), and evidence that the tin was crudely smelted for export, the tin slag found assaying over 20 per cent. He also discovered several places in the interior where payable tin could be mined, but until a satisfactory tin is obtainable it would be useless to take the land up, or to apply for it.

The State is well administered by a Governor (Malay), a very enlightened man, but the amount of revenue derived at present is quite inadequate to meet the expenses of road making, bridge building, and generally opening up the country.

When the introduction of outside capital is permitted, and granted to Europeans for mining and planting—and this must inevitably come in time—and as Kampong Ching is a Government tin mine, as at Fudie, it will not be difficult to prospect for great future for this little known State.

GUNBOAT FOR MACAO.

NEW SHALLOW DRAFT VESSEL TO BE PUT UP IN HONGKONG.

For some time past the Portuguese Government has had in contemplation the building of a shallow draft gunboat, for the pattern of the British river gunboats, for Macao. Last year a contract was placed with the firm of Messrs. Yarrow & Co. engineers and shipbuilders, of Scotland, to build, for a vessel of the type of the *Moorken*. Her dimensions are—length 120 ft., by 26 ft., and 2 ft. 1 in. draft. The construction has been completed and the vessel is now on the way out in sections. She has been shipped by the s.s. *Glenloch*, which is due to arrive in Hongkong on the 16th inst.

Messrs. Yarrow & Co. have despatched one of their expert engineers ahead of the gunboat. Mr. Walter Bugg, the representative in question of the Glasgow firm, has arrived in Hongkong and is awaiting the *Glenloch* with the firm's freight on board. Mr. Bugg will superintend the putting together of the different sections on behalf of the builders, while the Portuguese Superintendent will be Lieut. Pinto Basto who is due here from Lisbon by the German mail. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. will be given the contract for piecing together the sectional parts of the gunboat. We understand she will be named *Macao*.

JAPAN SUGAR COMPANY.

SHARES AT WASTE, PAPER PRICES.

The failure of the Fujimoto Bank has intensified the feeling of uncertainty in the share market with regard to the position of the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company. On the 20th ultimo the new shares Y20 paid up of the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company dropped by Y1.50 on the Osaka Stock Exchange and touched Y2.50, becoming practically worthless. The highest rate reached in November last for January delivery was Y37. The old shares, Y50 paid up, dropped to Y19 and a few sen. The new shares, which Y30 has yet to be paid, are now worse than waste paper as their holders are bound to pay another Y20 on each share and get nothing in return.

The *Osaka Asahi* notes that the new shares would have become utterly worthless had not speculators continued, as they do even now, to buy them in the hope of a recovery. But desire for further speculation is rapidly disappearing of their shares.—*Japan Chronicle*.

AN EMPHATIC BRITISH PROTEST.

Sir Claude McDonald, the British Ambassador, as well as the members of the Embassy, who are shareholders of the Japan Sugar Manufacturing Company, recently presented the following protest to Premier Katsura, reports the *Japan Advertiser*.

"We, British subjects, do not expect to be indemnified for the great losses which we have suffered as shareholders in the Japan Sugar Manufacturing Company on account of the dishonesty of the Directors. British subjects are gentlemen. We, therefore, purpose as shareholders to see the company's affairs to the end. But to release the unprincipled directors without subjecting them to any restraints, either legal or moral, will not only obstruct development in economic circles in Japan but will also fail to ensure the maintenance of Japanese credit in foreign markets. When some years ago an affair similar to that of the Japan Sugar Manufacturing Company occurred in England the responsible persons were subjected to legal restraint and sentenced to 25 (sic) years' imprisonment with hard labour."

BIG FIRE IN BANGKOK.

OVER 100 HOUSES DESTROYED.

The *Siam Free Press* of 2nd inst. states:—At half past eleven this morning a fire which swept a considerable area of humble dwellings to the west side of the New Road broke out in the Bangkok District close to the Poh Yome Bridge and only a few yards from the southern end of the area cleared by fire a little over one year ago. The precise origin of the outbreak seems to be a moot point. There was heavy thunderstorm overhead at the time and it is said that lightning struck an electric light post and then glanced on to an adjoining house. On the other hand it is averred that some coolies were abstracting kerosene from a tin. Be this as it may, the fire first broke out in the second house from the bridge and in a very short time had spread to several ramshackle buildings adjoining it. There was a strong southerly wind blowing at the time which drove the flames along the New Road, whilst they also swept westwards towards the river. After the alarm was given the police from both the Bangkok and Bantawal stations were soon on the scene but without pumps their efforts to quell the flames were utterly futile. One of the engines of the Siam Electricity Co. Ltd. and the brigade of Messrs. Winslow and Co. were the first to arrive half an hour after the alarm had been given. By this time there were fully fifty houses either fully ablaze or gutted; the telegraph and electric light poles on both sides of the street were ablaze and some of the woodwork of the houses on the east side of the New Road had also caught. At about noon the wind, which had hitherto been responsible for most of the mischief, dropped, and as everything had been well drenched by the heavy rain, the efforts of the firemen began to have the desired result, viz. to keep the conflagration from spreading northwards towards the new Bangkok market. Meanwhile other detachments of the Electricity Co.'s Brigade and the Siam and other brigades had come on the scene and shortly after half past twelve all danger was over of the fire spreading further. Several houses were very energetic in their efforts to subdue the fiery element, amongst whom Messrs. Koths of Messrs. Winslow and Co., and Torzi of the No. 1 Siam brigade, were conspicuous while some Japanese who appeared mysteriously on the scene did splendid work on the roof of the threatened building, as well as with axes. By one o'clock the fire was completely in hand and nothing was left but a L-shaped space, about one hundred yards long by five yards of crumbling and smouldering ruins. So far as is known there were no lives lost and no serious casualties were sustained, although there were a few bruises and contusions among the firemen. There were quite a number of Siamese Princes and Nobles present, including H. R. H. Prince Bhaskarawongse, H. R. H. Prince Nakon Chulabon, H. R. H. Prince of Kampepet, while a cavalry guard was in attendance.

In addition to the brigade before mentioned that of Messrs. Howarth & Ekin Ltd. was held in readiness to cut off the fire northward, not only from their own works but also from the district where last year's fire took place, much of which has been rebuilt upon the ruins of the old buildings. The premises destroyed were insured, most of them being of a very humble description, such as Chinese shops, public houses and the like.

A MANAGER'S SALARY.

ACTION FOR ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT.

An Yat Po, a restaurant manager, sued the Tin Yin Wan Kowloon-house of 81, Station Street South, Yau-mi-ki, in the Supreme Court, last Wednesday, to recover the sum of \$500 damages for alleged breach of contract.

Mr. E. Davidson, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, was for the plaintiff, while Mr. Otto Kong Sing defended. An Yat Po, it would seem from his story, was at one time in the employ of the defendant firm. As a matter of fact he was the promoter of the business. As manager of the firm his remuneration was \$500 a year. The engagement commenced last February and terminated in the defendant's employment for only two months, when he was dismissed without notice.

Mr. Justice Gompertz asked plaintiff's solicitor whether he was suing for a year's salary. The reply was in the affirmative. The plaintiff was dismissed without justification and was entitled to damages, which he would have earned were he allowed to complete the contract. The reason why he was discharged was because he had refused to write off one of the restaurant's shares. The shares had not been paid up in full and they wanted plaintiff to write "settled" over the account which he refused to do. There was a row and plaintiff was discharged on the spot.

The plaintiff, cross-examined by Mr. Kong Sing, stated that when he promoted the firm there were six partners. Mr. Kong Sing then took the plaintiff to the rules of the contract as drawn by the partners. He suggested that certain additions were made without the knowledge of the other partners by plaintiff, but this was denied. The addition, it was alleged, was that he was to receive \$500 a month, which was supposed to have been plaintiff's salary. The plaintiff, who drew up the agreement, and who was employed by the firm, drew \$6 a month. When the partnership dissolved the business was not put up for sale by tender. The partners thought of doing so, but later changed their minds.

Mr. Kong Sing—Didn't you in a previous case between the partners say that the business was sold?—No.

Wasn't it because the business was losing that the transfers were made?—No, the business was not a losing concern.

At the time the business started you made an estimate of the working capital?—Yes.

How many men did you estimate to employ?—About twenty.

Were you in charge of the wages book?—No. Have you seen it?—Yes.

The wages book was produced when plaintiff identified and pointed out his name, which gave the salary on which he was received.

As a matter of fact you received \$4 a month?—No, replied plaintiff with great emphasis.

How much did managers of restaurants get a month?—Between \$50 and \$60.

In that book you allowed \$90 for all wages. How do you account for your \$50?—That was a guess. It was only an estimate.

Your \$50 was to be paid out of the \$50?—That estimate was a rough one made before the business opened.

Further evidence was called by the plaintiff. After that the defence opened its case and produced to show that plaintiff was only engaged at \$8 a month and that whatever money was owing to him by the firm was paid in full.

The case was adjourned until Monday next.

A RESCUE AT SEA.

ADRIFF IN A SMALL BOAT.

The *Siam Free Press* of 30th ult. says:—Captain Behr, of the s.s. *Rafal*, which arrived this morning from Hongkong, reported that when near Pulo, Opi he picked up three Annamites who were adrift in a small boat. They had, it seems, been blown out to sea from the mouth of the Saigon river, a distance of about 240 miles and were in a very miserable condition. Upon arrival here they were handed over to the Harbour Department which in turn sent them to the French Consulate.

DARING OUTRAGE IN KOBE.

FOREIGN LADY ROBBED.

A young foreign lady, Miss M. Fleming, in the employ of Messrs. C. Nickel & Co., Kobe, was a victim of a highway robbery on Tuesday evening, 29th ult. The lady was walking up the hill towards the Tor Hotel at about 7.30, and was just passing the residence of Mr. C. Lucas in Yamamoto-dori, 3-chome, when a Japanese suddenly sprang on her, snatched a bag containing Y20 in cash, which she was carrying in her right hand, with the cord round her wrist. The man vanished as suddenly as he had appeared. Upon arrival at the hotel, Miss Fleming communicated with the police by telephone and no time was lost in instituting a search for the robber, but without result. The police are redoubting their efforts, however, and it is hoped the man will be arrested shortly.

In an interview with a *Japan Chronicle* representative yesterday Miss Fleming said that she had just left a lady friend when she noticed that she was being followed by a rough-looking man of the cholera class. This man suddenly came up and struck her a violent blow on the back of the neck, then seized her wrist and snatched the bag she was carrying, disappearing down a dark narrow lane. Miss Fleming proceeded at once to the Tor Hotel and the manager telephoned to the police, who were soon on the spot, but no trace of the thief could be found. This is the third time Miss Fleming has been similarly attacked, and on each occasion these attacks have occurred on the last day of the month.

SHANGHAI GAOL BREAK.

PRISONERS AT LARGE.

Great excitement was caused in the Hongkong District about an escape to-day by the agent of police-waiters and the sight of prison guards running in all directions, reports the *Singapore Mercury* of 7th inst. It was learned that a gang of six convicts who were undergoing sentences of imprisonment ranging from one to three years for various crimes, such as kidnapping, robbery, etc., had escaped from the Honan Road depot of the Municipal gaol, which is situated near the railway station and used as a stone yard, being surrounded by a high stone wall. While the men were at work and the guards patrolling the grounds, the men broke the chain by which they were attached to each other with a stone hammer with which they were working, and making a sudden dash for the gate, they were soon on the public road and scattering in various directions they made good their escape, some going along Honan Road, and others making in the direction of Pao-shan territory only a short distance away. Later in the afternoon one of the escaped convicts who was in hiding in Pao-shan was captured by the police and will be handed back to the Municipal Authorities. Another, who was escaped, was one who was captured in the gaol-break of last year, during which an Indian warder was badly wounded. The prisoner was only recently recaptured in Pao-shan and returned to gaol, and had since been employed on the China gao.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the Board of Directors to the twentieth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, at noon on Saturday, 24th inst., is as follows:

Gentlemen:—Your directors have the pleasure to submit the accompanying statement of the company's accounts for the year ending 28th February, 1909.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$161,702.93; after deducting directors' fees (\$3,000) there remains a sum of \$158,702.93 available for appropriation, and your directors recommend that this be disposed of as follows:

To pay a dividend of 10 per cent—
Say \$100 per share on 60,000 shares.....\$ 60,000.00
To pay a bonus of 2 per cent.....\$ 12,000.00
To pay 20 cents per share on 60,000 shares.....12,000.00
To write off plant account for depreciation.....66,382.15
To write off property account for depreciation.....11,043.99
To pay a bonus to staff.....4,081.50
To carry forward to next account.....5,195.48

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the articles of association, Messrs. J. W. C. Bonnar and E. G. Barrett retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and J. Cox Edwards (the latter in place of Mr. C. W. May who is absent from the Colony). Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and J. Cox Edwards offer themselves for re-election.

J. W. C. BONNAR, Chairman.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1909.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO FEBRUARY 28TH, 1909.

Liabilities.

Capital:—
60,000 shares each \$10 paid up.....\$600,000.00
Sundry creditors.....7,122.50
Dividends unclaimed.....6,793.20
Suspense account.....1,744.80
Balance of profit and loss account.....161,702.93

Assets.

Plant, cost of, as per last account.....\$483,308.60
Less amount provided for depreciation.....58,108.60
\$425,200.00

Cost of plant, since added.....71,382.15
\$596,582.15

Property, cost of land and buildings as per last account.....\$123,612.10
Less amount provided for depreciation.....13,612.10

\$110,000.00

Cost of buildings since added.....1,043.99

Installation material, stock of.....11,043.99

Stores and coal, stock of.....45,368.24
Tools, etc., stock of.....14,965.53
Furniture, cost of, as per last account.....620.00

Cost of furniture, since added.....57.00

Insurance, value of unexpired portions of policies.....1,500.00
Sundry debitors.....28,007.74
Cash with agents.....23,391.13

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.....55,129.53

\$777,363.60

WORKING ACCOUNT.

To Agency and office expenses.....\$ 8,000.00
To Rent and taxes.....3,037.86
To Insurance.....2,978.50
To Auditors' fees.....325.00
To Bad debts.....787.64

To Amount carried to profit and loss account.....152,381.49

\$ 68,185.49

By Net profit on working.....167,799.45
By Scrip and transfer fees.....15.00
By Interest.....470.04

\$168,285.49

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To Amount available for appropriation.....\$161,702.93

\$161,702.93

By Amount of undivided profit, as per last account.....\$ 9,321.43
Balance of working account brought down.....152,381.49

\$161,702.93

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ROBBERY AT A REFINERY.

INDIAN WATCHMAN GAGGED AND BOUND.

A remarkable story of robbery which is alleged to have been committed the other night in the Eastern district, was told to the police last Tuesday by the Indian watchman in the employ of the East Point Sugar Refinery. The watchman, whose duty it was to look after the company's godowns, gave the police to believe that at about midnight on Tuesday or early on the following morning a number of men, whom he had seen landing from a sampan which had, he thought, come from Cantonway Bay, attacked the watchman, whom they gagged and bound. The marauders then saved their way through a door and, having collected about \$50 worth of raw sugar, placed the goods in the sampan and departed. The watchman managed to release himself and made his way to the police station and told his story. Detectives are inquiring into the matter, but the Indian's story in some respects is rather doubtful.

DR. KOCH IN JAPAN.

PROFESSOR KITASATO'S REPLY TO CRITICISM.

Some weeks ago we (*Japan Chronicle*) published a translation of an article contributed from Japan to the *Munchener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, in which it was asserted that those responsible for the entertainment of Professor Koch in Japan succeeded in conveying to him an entirely one-sided idea of the true hygienic conditions of this country. As we pointed out at the time, the statements made were quite accurate, and we expressed the opinion that it was a short-sighted policy, calculated to do Japanese interests in the end more harm than good. A communication now appears in the *Deutsche Japan-Post* from Professor S. Kitasato, who takes up the cudgels on behalf of his countrymen and vigorously rebuts the author of the article in question. We translate Professor Kitasato's letter as follows:

"The article of the anonymous writer in the *Munchener Medizinische Wochenschrift* (No. 41/1908) has been widely propagated amongst us in Japan; and throughout medical circles has perhaps caused more sensation than it really deserved. It would have been much better had it been conveyed directly to the waste-paper basket. 'The motives which impelled the writer to compose his letter are not easily explainable, unless he is envious and jealous on account of the great honour shown his own countryman. Had the writer given his name and not written under cover of anonymity, it would of course have been less difficult to understand the motives, which led to his anti-Japanese manifestations.'"

"We know very well that the opinion of that writer is an individual one, that we must not accept it as German opinion, and that the author of the article does not write as a representative of the Germans resident in Japan nor has he been commissioned by them to do so. On the contrary, we are convinced that the great majority of Germans condemn the article as emphatically as was done in Yoko-hama."

"As is well-known, it is easy to ascribe base and ignoble motives to the noblest intentions, and deeds, as does the writer of this spiteful article. We had, however, not the slightest intention of concealing from His Excellency Privy Counsellor Koch the shady side of our country—and what country has no shady side? Why did the great scholar come to Japan? In order to see the shady side? Did he want to study the defects and bad features—to seek out want and poverty? He can certainly find all this nearer home; there is no need for him to make the long journey to Japan for that. Did he come at all for purposes of study? No! He came to Japan on pleasure bent, to enjoy life and nature, as the guest of our country. Since when has it been customary for the host, when he esteems his guest and wishes to make his sojourn pleasant, to show him the shady side of his establishment? Is the shady side of Germany paraded before the nation's guests of honour? And if this is not done, can the nation be accused of purposely concealing everything which is not as it should be?"

"Moreover, does a thinking mind like that of His Excellency Privy Counsellor Koch form the judgment of any country after a round of festivities? The man is sufficient to study the disposal of such a mind to enable him to study independently all conditions in Japan in which he is interested, and as far as the condition of medical science in Japan is concerned, he is probably better informed than the writer of the article in question, so that he can hardly be in need of enlightenment by the latter."

"The reason Professor Koch was received so honourably was because it was the first time Japan had lodged such a pioneer scientific investigator. He has many pupils in Japan who feel that they owe him a great debt of gratitude, while all scientific circles in Japan look up to him with admiration. Consequently many circles vied in flinging the great scholar, more than had been anticipated even in Japan."

"That the writer of these lines (i.e. Professor Kitasato) treated Herr Geheimrat Koch as his personal guest and devoted his whole time to him was due to the fact that he was a former pupil and an old friend of the savant. Had he troubled himself less about Professor Koch and had the latter been less flattered, the writer of the article in the German journal would have certainly written an article on the degradation of Japanese scholars. There are some people who cannot give credit to anything, and in whose opinion the best intentions and deeds spring from unworthy motives."

"As will be seen from the above, Professor Kitasato practically confines himself to invective against the writer of the article. He does not deny a single specific statement made in the article referred to, and, in fact, ignores the main issue altogether. The principal points raised by the writer were the following:—That everybody was bent on showing Professor Koch an over-whelming impression of Japan; that the absence of foreign medical men from the reception was contrary to what the savant's good impressions should not be disturbed; that those concerned succeeded in conveying to Dr. Koch an entirely one-sided idea of the true hygienic conditions of this country; and that it is becoming more and more the policy in this country to flatter distinguished travellers in an excessive degree and to treat as *quantum negligibile* the foreign residents who exposed the country and money here."

"These are statements of fact which cannot be controverted or explained away by vague appeals to sentimental considerations."

RACE PONIES SOLD.

At Kennedy's Horse Repository at Causeway Bay last Wednesday afternoon, the three well-known race ponies "Seaford," "Strathallan," and "Kilgobbin" were sold by public auction by Messrs. Hughes and Hogg. "Seaford" was a bay, 15 hands high, with a good head, a strong neck, and a good body. "Strathallan" was a bay, 14 hands high, with a good head, a strong neck, and a good body. "Kilgobbin" was a bay, 14 hands high, with a good head, a strong neck, and a good body. The ponies were sold for the sum of \$1,000 each.

THE FOUNDING OF SINGAPORE.

SIR J. E. HAY AND MRS. GORDON.

The fine old sailor, Admiral Sir John Dalrymple Hay, who has just celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday, entered the Royal Navy seventy-five years ago, and was at the capture of Borneo and St. Jean d'Acre in 1840. Then he went to China, and bore his share in chasing piratical junks and in the operations in Borneo in 1845, under Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane. By the time the Crimean War broke out he was a captain, and he commanded the *Hassanbul* in the Black Sea. Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1866, he became a naval lord at Whitehall, and he is the senior living officer that has served on the Board of Admiralty. Sir John is the fourth baronet of his ancient line, and a splendid, and now almost extinct, type of our old-time admirals.

It was Sir John Dalrymple Hay who told the Editor of the *Singapore Free Press* (who knew Sir John in Wigwagshire many years ago) when he was home last in 1902, one Sunday evening in the Scottish Conservatory, Clith in Edinburgh, that the late Mrs. Bellamy-Gordon, nee Kennure Castle, Kilmahomish, an old friend of the Admiralty, related to him in her own house, that she had sailed from Penang in a schooner with Sir Stamford Raffles to Singapore in 1819, and herself saw the British flag hoisted here.

That interesting historical incident is nowhere on written record (unless it be in the Gordon family archives at Kenmare Castle amongst the lady's private letters from Penang), but has been transmitted direct verbally from the Editor as above mentioned to the Editor of the *Singapore Free Press*.

Mr. Bellamy-Gordon, when Singapore was taken over by Sir Stamford Raffles, was a Mrs. Bellamy, her husband being a Bangal official of the Honourable East India Company at Penang, where Sir Stamford Raffles was frequently a guest of the Bellamys. On inheriting the Kenmare estates (she was originally a Miss Gordon of Kenmare) she added the name of Gordon to her married name of Bellamy.

Sir John Dalrymple Hay knew Singapore well as a naval officer, first visiting this place in the *Splendid*, a paddle-steamer in 1843, and had much service in the Straits, Borneo, and on the China station. (He

THE MACAO BOUNDARY

AGITATION IN SHANGHAI

Commissioner Gault on his information
inland, reports the *Singhai Times*, at
the same time, the Chinese Government
and the Macao Boundary Protection
Committee, the Chinese Government
should. H.E. Kao, special Commissioner
the Macao Boundary, arrived to
urge him to stand firm and not to
give up an inch of land. [Reply] win-
-Sheng" [The Guild to Mr. Yang Tsung-
the Macao Boundary, questioning
the foreign and the local property
therefore fully on duty to help
in holding a meeting and will petition
Commissioner Kao. [Pray] (note: into the
the Portuguese administration of

the beginning, and the present. I
 on, and write us fully so that w
 on the proper measures to take
 side.

—

A Portuguese [writes] to the N.Y.
 on: —

On the question of the delimitation
 cacao Boundary I have noticed vari
 ous statements regarding the Port
 ugo's in their Colony in South Chi
 particular the removal from Macao
 Portuguese Ferreira do Amaral, of
 customs house has been qualified
 as a traitor in their own country. But
 the other side to this episode in the h
 cacao. Portugal having declared, M
 de France, such a removal was a cor
 is a new order of things, and, besides,
 no interference on the part of the
 Customs Authorities in the admini

active population in Macao necessitated action from the Portuguese Colony. The Emperor's action in 1848 was fully justified. He paid his life for his temerity in Macao, an entirely a Portuguese City, being assassinated at the hands of hired ruffians. Now it is said that the Portuguese Governor appointed for the delimitation of the boundary, is trying to put forward claims entering into the question of the boundary, is trying to put forward claims to territories to which Portugal has no right. It would appear that those who

So far as it is known," the Portuguese missioner has not yet arrived, and nothing

[illegible]

to settle, but the expulsion of the Po-

On our part, we may assume with confidence that we shall not put forward claims which we have do right in the face of Interior Minister Macao and its dependencies as before the Treaty of 1885 shall form the basis of our negotiations; that is, Macao and all its dependencies which have been in effect since the acquisition of Macao in 1557, and the waters, with the territorial waters as defined in the Law of Nations; will be inscribed in the Portuguese Commissioner's map below.

It is really and to think that a place which is closely associated with the immortal names of Xavier and Camões, and to which such a name so most beautiful, should be made the barracoon for the 'coolie emigration' to the West Indies, and slights its dignity to the present, a foster-mother to give up.

Without the least wishing to palter, the Portuguese Government's administration of Macao, I may say that the Chinese are partly responsible for these economic difficulties. The 'Coolie Trade' could not have flourished if there were no Chinese brokers to bring together the interior and coast of China.

ong have been deserted if there were
ven to go to these dens in quest of

We have seen the same thing again and again with the Indian opium. The imposition of a drug, into China would not be the same thing as the opening of a new market; therefore, it would have caused no trouble. The suppression of the opium trade was the suppression of the poppy cultivation in China, not in foot.

Macao's iniquity has, indeed, been graver than mere change. Portugal has now made a move to make of Macao's place for the sale of the drug, what it was in the case of the opium. It will be undertaken to improve the roads, and, through administratively general trading facilities will be granted to Chinese merchants. The construction of the Macao-Canton railway will be the

the pending delimitation has been
lished. No one will profit more by the

LIMEWASHING HOUSE
APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION
At the meeting of the Sanitary Board

recupler of No. 450, Queen's Road
r exemption from lawwashing the 1

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that the applicant be exempt from lime-water tanks.

Mr. A. Shalton Hooper inquired if the recommendation should be in writing by the applicant and addressed to the Board.

Mr. Lau Chin Pak: "According to the Engineer's report, the water is used for drinking purposes. This reason is good enough for exempting the tank from lime-water tanks. At the same time, I agree that it should apply direct to the Board."

Mr. Ho Kom Tong: "Exempt, but the Board should apply to the Board."

Mr. C. H. H. T. Williams: "No objection forward as in the case of which this is the same water and so it might be the exemption granted."

15th April.

DELIMITATION OF MACAO.

The Society for the Protection of Boundary Rights in Canton has been in receipt of a telegram from the people of Wuchow, in which they expressed their willingness and readiness to render all possible assistance to the Society in connection with the delimitation of Macao. In the message they informed the Society that they have appointed Wong Pak Ho to be their representative.

Another mass meeting has been arranged by the Society for the Protection of Boundary Rights to be held on Sunday next, the 18th instant, in connection with the question of the delimitation of Macao.

CHINA'S SCHOLARS.

In accordance with instructions received from the Imperial Government the Viceroy has issued a proclamation informing those who have received their education in foreign countries and have obtained the degrees of Ku Yen and Chiu Si, now in Kwangtung, to present themselves at an examination to be held in the Capital on the 10th day of the 4th moon.

BANDITS TO BE BEHEADED.

On receipt of a report from Brigadier-General Wong Pui Tsang stationed at Ko Chow, the Viceroy has given instructions that the forty-eight bandits, who had surrendered to the Brigadier-General and offered to help the authorities to effect the capture of the other outlaws, should all be beheaded, owing to their failure to fulfil their obligation.

BLACKMAILERS AGAIN.

On the 9th instant, a blackmailing letter supposed to be sent by robbers was delivered to the household of the President of the Ministry of Law, H. E. Tai Tung Si, in Fatsien, of which H. E. Tai is a native. In the letter the robbers demand a sum of \$50,000, with threats to burn the recipients' dwellings, should the money not be forthcoming. The matter has been reported to the local officials with the original letter for their information.

CONTEMPLATED ATTACK BY OUTLAWS.

Urgent telegraphic reports reached Canton yesterday from the officials of Pok Lo to the effect that the local bandits are now contemplating attack on the city and that troops should be sent from Canton without loss of time to the spot to quell the bandits. The Canton authorities are now preparing to send a detachment of troops to Pok Lo to battle the lawless ones in their nefarious plans.

MOTHER GIVES BIRTH TO TRIPLETS.

It is interesting to note that a month ago a woman in Fatsien at Pook Tok Lane gave birth to three sons simultaneously. The triplets are said to be enjoying the best of health. A number of people, especially doctors, who were interested in the unique occurrence, called on the mother to see the newly-born freaks of nature.

FRILLS AND FLOUNCES.

DISPUTE OVER LADY'S DRESS ENDED.

The action brought by Yau Lee, the tailor of Wellington Street, against Lottie Kingsbury, of the same street, to recover \$10.75, the price for the making up of a dress, and the cross-action for \$48.20 for silk alleged to have been soiled by the tailor, concluded, before Mr. Justice Gompertz, in the Supreme Court, today. During the adjournment it would seem that the parties approached each other with a view to a settlement, which could not be obtained.

When the case was called, the judge asked whether the matter had been settled.

Lottie Kingsbury, who has acquired an American twang, replied in the negative. She said that the tailor had called on her and asked for \$10.75. She offered him \$5, which he refused to take. "I asked him to sign the bill," she added, "but he would not sign the bill. He wanted the money and would not sign the bill. He knows I have money and he wanted to fool me."

The tailor admitted that he had returned the woman the extra piece of silk, but he could not see why he should be taxed with the cost of the material—an extra \$2.20.

The judge—Can't you see your way to making a reduction in your bill, considering that the dress will not fit?

The tailor carefully avoided the question, and asked: Ask her to put on the dress in Court, and you will see that it is already worn out.

Miss Kingsbury reiterated that the dress would not fit her properly. The skirt was passable, but, oh, the blouse! In order to make it proper new collar was wanted and new "flounces" (if that was the word) put on.

Then turning to the meek and mild-looking tailor, whose bump on his forehead, alleged to have been inflicted by the lady, appears to be getting more prominent, Miss Kingsbury demanded: Did you ever see me wear the dress? Have you any witnesses to prove what you have said?

The judge (to the tailor)—Have you any witnesses to say that they saw her wear the dress?—Yes.

When was the dress delivered?—About ten weeks ago.

The dress could scarcely be worn out by now. Did you see her wear the dress?—Yes. I saw her in the dress at the Magistrate when I prosecuted her for striking me.

Miss Kingsbury—I put it on to try it. Can't I do that?

The judge—Did you put it on to go to the Magistrate?—No. I took it there with me as evidence.

Did the magistrate express any opinion as to whether the dress fitted or not? (Laughter.)—Avoiding the question, Miss Kingsbury started out to criticise the dress once more, when she was brought up by the judge with: What kind of a dress did you wear to go up to the Magistrate? The reply was: White.

In conclusion, Mr. Justice Gompertz said that it was not possible for him to decide whether the dress was a proper fit or not. The plaintiff said it was not. He would however give judgment for the plaintiff in the original action for \$10.75, and for the defendant in the cross-action.

"HIT WITH A BRICK"

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES AGAINST A CONTRACTOR.

Mr. C. Segneira, a ticket collector in the employ of the "Star" Ferry Company, Limited, has entered an action against Lam Woo, a contractor, for damages, which, it is alleged, was due to the negligence of defendant's servant. The claim is for \$1,000 for injuries sustained by the plaintiff, and the case is set down for hearing in a fortnight's time, pleaded by Lam Woo has the contract for erecting a building in Paddar Street, and it is stated that one Sunday morning while plaintiff and some lady friends were passing the building a loose brick became dislodged and fell, striking plaintiff on the head.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appears for the plaintiff. The defendant is represented by Mr. Alderson (of Messrs. Deacon, Tocker and Deacon).

PRATAS ISLAND DISPUTE.

STATEMENT BY FORMOSA GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

Japanese papers publish the following as a statement made by a certain official of the Formosa Government in regard to Pratas Island, which is now attracting a great deal of public attention—

"The Chinese Government is said to have sent a gunboat to Nishisawa or Pratas Island. Presumably the object of the mission is nothing more than the inspection of the island. Judging from its position, the island should be under the jurisdiction of the Formosa Government. That Government, however, considers that the island does not belong to any country and has not laid claim to it. In consequence the enterprise started on the island by Mr. Nishisawa, who makes Formosa the basis of his operations, has been in no way interfered with. The island in question, which is called Nishisawa Island, was not discovered by Mr. Nishisawa. In 1903 Mr. Minutani Shinroku, who was then in Formosa, undertook to explore the island. After experiencing great difficulties en route he succeeded in landing thereon, but fell ill and he was reduced to the verge of starvation before being rescued by a foreign steamer which happened to pass by and brought him to Formosa. Mr. Nishisawa, who was engaged in forwarding business in Formosa and is a man of an adventurous nature, decided to begin the business of gathering phosphates there, and assigned a contract to that effect with Mr. Minutani. He has invested \$400,000 (sic) in gathering phosphates and guano on the island, at one time employing 400 workers. The result has not been satisfactory but he still perseveres in the business. It has been reported that the island was inhabited by the Chinese, but this report is incredible, though it is known that at certain seasons Chinese are in the habit of coming there for fishing purposes. The report emanating from a Chinese source that the Japanese drove away the Chinese inhabitants and occupied the island cannot be credited. That the island is claimed by no country admits of no question."

A JAPANESE REPORT.

According to a member of the crew of the *Fudo Maru*, which has just arrived in Yokohama from Pratas Island, (says the *Japan Advertiser* of April 4) there was only one Chinese sailing-vessel there. There seemed to be nothing unusual. The island is only about eight miles in circumference and its height above sea level is some forty feet. It had practically no products. When Mr. Nishisawa first went to the island, he took with him a number of labourers with him to work sulphur deposits there. The number now employed is between 140 and 150. They are mostly natives of the Loochoos and Formosa. There are also some 20 Formosa Chinese on the island. According to a vernacular paper published in Fochow, the British and American Governments some years ago proposed the erection by China of a light-house on Pratas Island, but although a steamer was dispatched to investigate the locality nothing was ever done in the matter. Hand over on February 1st, when Mr. Nishisawa the vessel was sent to resume investigations, and then first discovered that the island was inhabited by Japanese and Formosans.

They had erected military storehouses, shops, coal-sheds, piers and telegraph-poles. The circumstances were reported to the Chinese Government and a gunboat carrying officials proceeded there on the 15th. Their negotiations with the Japanese, however, were unsuccessful. A British vessel navigating in this region some years ago had anchored off the island during a typhoon, and the vessel was named after Mr. Frazer, captain of the vessel. The master of the vessel, Japanese occupied the island and arbitrarily changed its name to Nishisawa Island. They also drove away the Chinese fishermen on the island and confiscated the fishing apparatus.

JAPANESE PRESS OPINIONS.

The *Kokumin Shinbun* says that the Japanese Government will act moderately and carefully in the matter of Pratas Island, and no early settlement can be expected. The Formosa Government will also produce papers on the subject. The investigations in the meantime will not affect the Japanese enterprise. The *Jiji* Hongkong correspondent, telegraphing on the 5th instant, says that the Kwangtung Self-Government Association has passed the following resolutions on the Pratas Island question—

(a) That the affairs should be fully reported to all the Chinese people, so as to secure unanimity in popular opinion.

(b) That the attention of the Government should be called to the protection of the fisheries and productions of the island.

(c) Should the Government not make any effort to secure Chinese rights over the island, efforts should be initiated by the people themselves.

CHINA'S NAVAL SCHEMES.

NEW SUGGESTIONS.

In connection with the reorganization of the Imperial Navy, the Chinese Government has made the following suggestions—

1. That the different Viceroys and Governors be ordered to suggest the best means of raising a special fund by an additional impost.

2. That an increase of land taxes be levied at once for the initial expenses of the navy.

3. That an increase of duty on tobacco, wine, sugar and a house tax be levied for a fund towards the annual expenses.

4. That a subscription fund be started by awarding ranks of nobility to subscribers.

5. That a national loan be raised among the Chinese residents abroad in the South Pacific Islands.

6. That foreign loans be raised.

7. That the China Merchants Company's fleet be subsidized for transport service in time of war.

8. That vessels be commissioned to protect fishing craft on the coast, and that the latter should pay a tax towards the Navy.—*N. C. D. News.*

CLUB MEMBER SUBD.

FAILING TO PAY HIS CONTRIBUTION.

A claim was brought before Mr. Justice Gompertz, in the Supreme Court, this morning, by E. A. M. Williams against D. McCallum to recover the sum of \$15 which was due to the St. George's Club.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, appearing for the plaintiff, the liquidator, said that defendant was a member of the club, and under the rules it was compulsory, in the event of the club going into liquidation, for each member to contribute \$15 towards the club's assets. The defendant had not paid his contribution.

Mr. Justice Gompertz—Was he a member when the club went into liquidation?—Yes. Judgment was entered for plaintiff in the absence of the defendant.

CHINESE WOMAN AND A FORTUNE TELLER.

REMARKABLE STORY OF HOW SHE WAS DUPED.

A remarkable story—one which shows how easily it is for some Chinese women to be duped—was told at police headquarters the other day. The story at present lacks confirmation, but we present it to readers for what it is worth.

A young Chinese woman residing in Wellington Street paid a visit to the house of a fortune-teller (in Queen's Road Central) on the 15th February last, to have her fortune told. She found the gentleman at home, and after giving him to understand the object of her visit, was requested to be seated. The fortune-teller buried himself about the room and with much ado produced from a box a handful of sticks, each about a foot or more in length, which he placed in a bamboo holder. According to the young woman's account of the affair, when everything was ready she was asked her name and address, which she gave. She was next asked her name, but, curiously enough, this she could not tell.

"Well," began the charlatan, "shading his eyes with one hand and looking at the sticks on the table, 'you have been an adventurous life. I see from these things here' (pointing with the other hand to the 'magic sticks') 'that you were the daughter of a very wealthy man in the 'last world.' You had a misfortune, for during a fire you were burnt to death—your family, your fortune, your husband—all perished. The young woman, who evidently has faith in such persons, vouchsafed no reply.

"I can see," continued the 'great man,' 'that you have bad times ahead. As I read from the sticks, which are never false, you will suffer, firstly, from a bad foot, which will be most painful and will be long to be cured. Then you will have bad luck. You will lose all those who are dear to you, and furthermore all your property.'

That was all he could tell her, and the woman left the house, after paying the fee, very much distressed. Several days later she paid the 'fortune-teller' another visit, and begged him to tell her in what way the impending troubles could be avoided.

"Do you see this?" asked the fortune teller, exhibiting a small tin box.

"Very well; take it home and put all your jewellery inside—all mind you. Then lock it up, and bring me the box to-morrow. I will charm the box, and you'll get back all what you had lost in the last world."

The lady obeyed the order, and at the time appointed returned to the fortune-teller's with the box, which he now contained over \$3,000 worth of valuables. She handed the box to the man, who requested her to be seated, and he retired to the rear of the house. He returned ten minutes later and placed the box on the table.

"Take it home now," he said. "I've done the 'charm.' To-day is Tuesday, is it not? Well, on Friday open the box, and everything will be all right."

Friday came, but not without surprises. The box was opened, according to instructions, but all the lady's jewellery had disappeared. All that was left was the box and a note. A visit to the fortune-teller elicited the information that he had left for Macao several days ago. The police were then informed of the affair, and so it is reported, a woman informer was sent to lure the deceiver back to Hongkong. This she did very cleverly. Indeed, she met the fortune-teller in a street in the Portuguese colony, and engaged him in conversation. She told him that she had met the lady, who had had her fortune told the other day in Hongkong. She told him also that the lady wanted to see him; she had more jewellery to put into the box, but she was afraid to open it because she had forgotten the instruction. The fortune-teller returned, and yesterday saw him in a room in the China Hotel, awaiting the arrival of his client. He was met by Detective Sergeant Appleton, who immediately placed him in custody.

In the Police Court, this morning, he was charged with obtaining sixty-one pieces of jewellery under false pretences. This charge was denied. Mr. Leo d'Almeida e Castro appeared for the prosecution, and the case was remanded.

THE STRINGENCY AT TIENTSIN.

OFFER OF HELP BY THE VICEROY.

Peking, April 9.

It is reported that Viceroy Yuan Shu-hau, of Chihli, has offered to advance Tien, 1,000,000 to relieve the stringency of the money-market at Tientsin, provided that the banks and traders concerned will offer reasonable conditions.

Neither the Government nor the Diplomatic Body is prepared to entertain the proposals recently put forward by the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce, for the repayment of the traders' losses by a Government loan.—*N. C. D. News.*

CITY LARCENIES.

PAINFUL EXPERIENCE OF AN AMAN.

12th Inst.

During the last two days quite a number of larcenies have been committed in the Colony, and it is pleasing to remark that in nearly all of the cases the offenders were caught. A female employee in the employ of Albert Ah-Wee, of the Kowloon Dairy, was the first arrested. She was accused of stealing a quantity of 'Jeyes' Fluid, balls and clothing from an employee. An amah, Mrs. Ng of 153, Mainland Street, was the next to be victimized. She was straggling along Queen's Road West yesterday morning, when a coolie came up from behind and relieved her of her satchel. The thief was followed by a number of people and the thief ran to earth. The next case on view was that in which a shopkeeper's 'fok' made himself scarce from the shop yesterday morning, and with him went about \$24 worth of clothing. It did not take the police any length of time to locate him. Then there was a silversmith, who had just returned from Canton on board the *Pakshau*. Just before the vessel had warped to her wharf he discovered that his luggage had vanished. The policeman on duty at the pier was notified, and not ten minutes had expired, when the guilty one "with the goods" to use an Americanism, was secured.

This morning the accused were arraigned in the Police Court, and a remand was granted in each case.

SHANGHAI OPIUM HOUSES.

CLOSURE OF THIRD QUARTER.

In continuation of last year's policy with respect to these establishments, it is decided that the third quarter of their number shall be closed on June 30 in the same manner as heretofore. Saturday, April 17, at 2 o'clock p.m. is fixed for the drawing which will be conducted, as on previous occasions, in the Malco Market at Shanghai.

The case was remanded.

WESTERN LEARNING FOR CHINA.

We have already noted the appeal of the China Emergency Committee for a sum of £200,000 for medical training and other educational work in China. Sir Robert Hart, Bart., is Chairman of the Committee, and in the appeal it is pointed out that China is now a nation awake and seeking from the West help in the reformation of her institutions and in the education of her children. The sum above mentioned is required for developing medical, normal, and theological education, and the translation of the best Western literature into Chinese. In furtherance of this object a meeting took place on 16th ult. at the Mansion House, when the Lord Mayor presided. At the same time were reminded by Mr. R. S. Gundry, C.B., in a letter to *The Times*, that an earnest effort is a great business made to found a University at Hongkong, and that the suggested effort to help China in the medical and general educational way might well take the form of support to this scheme, one that has its location in a British colony, at the portals of China. The empire of China and its teeming population is so vast that there is room for three or four other schemes, but the difficulty is to obtain the requisite funds for the two proposals which themselves are not the only two in the field. To mention two further ones, there is the University House scheme, in connection with which the Rev. Lord William Cecil is at present in China, and there is the International Institute of China at Shanghai, which has for years been in need of funds to carry on its work. There is, as we have said, room for them all to provide for the wants of four hundred millions of people, nearly a third of the human population of the globe, and spread over so considerable a geographical area. We need not traverse the goodwill shown to China at a time when she is not extremely complacent with foreign aid generally, and when, as for Great Britain is concerned—that is where the appeal is now being made—we are face to face with the treatment meted out in connection with the Shanghai-Hankow-Ningpo Railway, and of the apparent unconcern shown as to who gets the loan contract for the Canton-Hankow Railway. Hongkong, which is essaying to do so much towards education for China, and the consequent amelioration of the conditions of some of China's many millions, had saved that line to the Chinese by loaning the money on easy terms. Gratitude is scarcely over-shown by individuals, and still less by nations, unless they be that "lively sense of favour-to-come." Yet the Chinese are not generally without some such quality, and they usually have good memories for those who have treated them honestly and fairly in the long run. They are apparently neglectful of what Hongkong and Great Britain did in this matter, though Hongkong is simultaneously endeavouring to work for the disinterested good of China.

We hold it is well and good to attempt to raise the requisite funds for these educational schemes in China, but we may not forget the first claims of the British colony. Mr. Gundry, in his letter, pointed out that under the patronage of the Governor, an excellent scheme is already under consideration at Hongkong, for the creation of a University which would go far to fulfil the same purposes as the China Emergency Appeal Committee has in view. It may be argued that there is no reason why both schemes should not proceed on parallel lines. But, with *The Times*, we may point out that at a time when very heavy calls are being made on philanthropic charity at home, enough money is scarcely likely to be forthcoming to meet them both on a sound financial basis. Charitable institutions here are faced with capitally growing demands, and the assistance usually afforded them is not so readily forthcoming. Much cannot be expected of the foreigner resident in, or interested in, China, for the last year or two has not provided a bumper one, and matters have not yet so adjusted themselves as to leave them overburdened with funds. The scheme advocated at the meeting at the Mansion House on 16th is praiseworthy in every way. As Sir Robert Hart stated, few objects had such a claim to the interests of a civilized Christian country as this, to build a nation of 400,000,000 people, now changing from and about to take a new departure, to advance in the right direction. The outcome of the action now taken, or of a failure to act, might, he said, affect the life of mankind for all future ages. We must not forget, notwithstanding the presence of the Chinese Minister in London at the Mansion House meeting, that China is not always amenable to what it is desired to accomplish for her. Too often she regards with suspicion, if not with hostility, any movement within her confines directed or dominated by foreign influence. The Board of Education at Peking has not as yet any foreigners engaged in education in the colony carrying out their objects, and a meeting held not long ago in Peking, presided over by Sir John Jordan, came to the conclusion that a University on British lines was not practicable. It would seem, therefore, if the funds are not sufficient for all the schemes in the field, that concentration would be the better plan, and first choice given to the university scheme at Hongkong. You will here also have concentration of effort instead of scattered attempts in several parts of the country, for which the funds may not be adequate.—*L. & C. Express.*

OPIUM CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

Mr. Rees asked the Under-Secretary for India whether, in view of the fact that the Indian peasant paid the bill, the Government would accept the clearest and most incontestable proof that China was *pari passu* with India in reducing her opium cultivation, before India was called upon to the prejudice of other revenues and her own taxpayers, to make reductions which, in the absence of such proof, must result in transferring business from Indian to Chinese growers of the drug.

Mr. Buchanan: The present arrangement for the progressive restriction of the export of opium from India holds good in the case of India. The Chinese Government are aware that the extension of the present arrangement will depend on satisfactory evidence being given that the production of opium has been correspondingly reduced in China.

Mr. Rees: May we hope that there will be some evidence besides that of Chinese official assurances?

Mr. Buchanan: We will take care that that point is considered.

ACTING INSPECTOR OF JUNKS ROCHA presented the master, Chin Yee, of the junk No. 58, for the Police Court, to-day, with exhibiting arms and ammunition from this Colony without the sanction from the authorities. As everybody knows, every trading junk is allowed to carry a certain number of arms and ammunition, a list of which is contained in the licence. When \$874 returned from a trip yesterday, her "armoury" was inspected, with the result that it was discovered that two pistols, two breech loaders, two B.L. cartridges, and thirteen pounds of powder were missing.

The Acting Inspector of Customs, Mr. J. H. Vowles, said that he was unable to give a satisfactory account of the loss, he was arrested.

The case was remanded.

THE Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals beg to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals—

Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving, £100.

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A Patient, £100.

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JAPANESE COTTON YARN.

ACTIVITY IN SHANGHAI MARKET.

Considerable activity has been shown of late in the market for Japanese cotton yarn in Shanghai. It is attributed by some to the result of the boycott of English goods by the Chinese. This view is repudiated by Mr. Kitaki, the Japanese Consul in Shanghai. The activity of Japanese yarn in Shanghai, says the Consul-General, is mainly due to the recovery from the financial depression and the abundant harvest of wheat and barley in the Yangtze valley. The value of cotton yarn arriving in Shanghai represents about one-third of the total imports of the port. The British representative at the Opium Conference at Shanghai was absolutely opposed to the proposal of the Chinese Government to monopolise the opium trade. This appears to have in some way offended the Chinese, but the matter was only slight and cannot be taken as the cause of the increased import of Japanese yarn. The reason for the importation of Japanese yarn is from April to October. The increased activity in the yarn trade results from extensive importation to anticipate a successful harvest of wheat, while the silver exchange, 84-85 taels, serves as another impulse. Consequently the activity of Japanese yarn in Shanghai cannot by any means be ascribed to the Chinese boycott of English goods. It is nothing but the working of a natural law in trade.—*Japan Chronicle.*

PENANG.

"THE FATHER OF THE STRAITS."

Penang, the most northern of the Straits Settlements, was the first of the old East India Company's possessions in Malaya, and the great Warren Hastings, personally interested himself in its foundation, which event marked a new departure in British policy in these regions. Penang, however, appears to have always been in some degree unfortunate, and one indicated by the impression that the place has never assumed the importance that its promoters originally intended. Early intentions were good, but fate had a way of intervening to ordain otherwise. It occurs to the visitor that Penang suffers from a grievance, the inheritance of many decades, and there is a feeling of dissatisfaction that other places have acquired the glory which should by right have belonged to Penang, the father of the British Straits Settlements. Penang was born for great things, and was to play no mean part in counterbalancing policy in Malaya, but her younger sister, Singapore, founded 25 years later soon outdistanced her in commercial and maritime greatness. In the early days Penang the elder entertained doubtful feelings of pity and compassion for Singapore the younger, and considered the latter such a weakly child that she suggested it being given to the Dutch. Penang at the time was overflowing with the pride and dignity of the chief township of this far off Indian Presidency, and, sad to relate, but a few years had elapsed before Penang had to suffer the humiliation of seeing the head of the Government transferred to Singapore. Penang was ever ready to complain about the advantages and handicaps of the forced connection with India, and it was always a sore point with her that she was made the dumping ground for Indian criminals. Penang looked forward to the day when, free from Indian control, she could work out her own destiny. When some years later this happy day arrived it was the younger sister who forged ahead, and reaped most of the advantages of the increased trade with the F.M.S. Poor Penang has led a life of disappointments, and now the grumblings are directed against the Government at Singapore, which has endeavoured to beautify and enlarge the Lion City to the neglect of the needs and demands of Penang.

At the present day Penang is thankful for small mercies, and quite recently when the Governor of the Straits Settlements paid a visit to the town, which is only one day by sea from Singapore, the event was considered a great honour. Both Press and people welcomed the Governor with a fervour as though they were not often given this privilege, and an outlooker could only suppose that the visits of the Governor to such a far distant part of the colony were few and far between. The vast amount of business which the Governor performed in the course of a few hours was the subject of favourable comment, and no doubt, his Excellency's programme was drawn up on the spot, and a little while in Penang goes a very long way. A short visit to Penang does not impress one favourably, but at the same time, the town probably has its good points like other places in the East. A resident who has his home and friends there, reserves a warm corner in his heart for Penang, and prefers the town to Singapore, but the impartial observer who has had his few days in either, or both, cannot marvel at this preference. Penang may indeed prove an acquisition, but at first sight, it is a city asleep, and possesses few, if any, of the attractions to be found in Singapore, and the large sea ports of India.

Customs are different. Much greater freedom is allowed in dress. All the white men wear the white coat with comfortable military collar attached, and you see no linen collars and ties. This is much cooler as it obviates the necessity for wearing a shirt; a thin vest is all that is necessary underneath the coat. The topi is the round white Singapore, and the Curzon helmet is really only a variation of the topi, and the brown khaki topi, the platters all wear khaki, and the brown khaki topi, and the commercial men wear white. If you have on a collar and a tie then residents put you down at once as a visitor. Concerning the climate Penang is undoubtedly hot, if possible, more trying than Bombay, and perspiration is the order of the day. In the matter of dress Penang goes one better than India in abolishing the stiff collar, but in other respects India pays more attention to the special amenities of tropical weathering than does Penang, which is largely self-contented. It cares little about the outside. A few briefly worded cables keep the residents informed of the passing events of the time, and this apparently meets the case. Penang strikes the visitor as intensely parochial. The problems of empire have lost their significance by the time they reach this island at the mouth of the Straits of Malacca, and Mr. Chamberlain's message "To think Imperially" has passed by its shores unheeded.—*Times of India Correspondent.*

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See. Should a naval base, therefore, be established at Simpsonhafen, the Australian defence policy would immediately become an "offensive-defensive" one, as was recommended by Sir Edward Mutton in his Minute on Defence of April, 1902.

Under such a policy, immediately upon the creation of a diplomatic strain in Europe in which England and Germany were opposed, the first duty of the Australian Government, acting in conjunction with the Imperial Navy in Australian waters, would be to have in readiness an expeditionary military force to co-operate with the Navy sailing Simpsonhafen, thus closing the only German base in Australia that could be utilised for the purpose of aggression against Australia in the event of Britain's naval power being overcome.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

A CANTON VERSION.

DESPATCHING STORES FROM CHINA.

The Paris edition of the *New York Herald* publishes a telegram from its Canton correspondent stating that it is believed Germany intends to annex an island in the Pacific in order to turn it into a naval base.

This supposition is strengthened by the fact that the Commandant of the German "Squadron" at Canton has shipped on board a German steamer a quantity of food supplies, guns, ammunition, and material for the erection of barracks.

The destination of the vessel is unknown. The British authorities have sent the cruiser *Flores* to watch the German vessel.—*Central News*.

MORPHINE SMUGGLING.

THE LATEST DODGE.

The Chinese chemists who up to a few months ago did a considerable trade in morphine and other opium substitutes until stopped by the Customs people, have, it seems, adopted a new method of late, says a Bangkok paper. They took to getting their morphine put into ordinary but non-leakable envelopes and forwarded to them through the ordinary letter post. This practice appears to have acted very well but the other day an accident happened. The corner of one of the envelopes got broken in Post Office No. 11 and out trickled a little stream of white powder. It was a bit of a mystery to the Postal Officials took it to the Customs, where the stuff was at once recognized as morphine. The envelope was detained and by-and-by others arrived, each similar in guise, and addressed to chemists in the Taipei Noi district. There are three of these altogether two of whom are being prosecuted in the Siamese Court and the third in the British.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORTS.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadorie & Co. write on the 8th instant:

"To-morrow being Good Friday, we are issuing our circular a day earlier than usual. A fair investment business has been transacted during the week under review and prices for most stocks have been well maintained."

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have weakened slightly to \$2.55, at which rate sales have been effected. The close of the day buyers prevail. In London, a firmer feeling exists, and the price has risen to \$2.60.

Marine Insurance.—Canton has been dealt in, in small lots, at \$1.75, and there are more buyers. North China are wanted at \$1.20. Unions are weaker and obtainable at \$2.45. There are buyers of Yangtze at \$1.25, but sellers are not forthcoming at the rate. Fire Insurance.—China Fire is offering at \$1.05. Hongkong Fire is stronger with inquiries at \$1.20.

Shipping.—China and Manila, after sales at \$7, are required for at \$8, without including sellers. Douglases are wanted at \$3.55. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have been sold during the week at \$2.75, \$2.95, and \$2.95, but at the close there are sellers at the latter rate. Indo-China continue to deal at \$4.00 and \$2.00 for the preferred and deferred shares respectively, but with the better prospects of shipping, buyers are loath to sell at present. Shell Transporters can be placed at the improved rate of \$5.60.

Refineries.—China Sugars have not fluctuated since we wrote last and are steady at \$1.75, after sales. Luxons are on offer at \$1.75. From latest mail, devices to hand, Perak Sugars are reported sold at \$1.25.

Mineral.—Chinese Engineers are in favour at \$1.15. In the North, Raubs, after sales at \$1.05, are obtainable at \$1.05.

Docks, Wharves, and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharves have shown a further improvement on last week's quotation and have changed hands at \$1.55. Whampoa Docks and Macao Steamboats have been sold during the week at \$2.75, \$2.95, and \$2.95, but at the close there are sellers at the latter rate. Indo-China continue to deal at \$4.00 and \$2.00 for the preferred and deferred shares respectively, but with the better prospects of shipping, buyers are loath to sell at present. Shell Transporters can be placed at the improved rate of \$5.60.

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The market, generally speaking, has remained firm during the week under review, but only a moderate business has been transacted. The principal feature of the week has been the improvement in all shipping shares, especially Indo-China.

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have ruled steady during the week, and close with buyers at the improved rate of \$2.75. The London price has risen to \$2.75.

Marine Insurance.—Canton has been dealt in, in small lots, at \$1.75, and there are more buyers. North China are wanted at \$1.20. Unions are weaker and obtainable at \$2.45. There are buyers of Yangtze at \$1.25, but sellers are not forthcoming at the rate. Fire Insurance.—China Fire is offering at \$1.05. Hongkong Fire is stronger with inquiries at \$1.20.

A CANTON VERSION.

DESPATCHING STORES FROM CHINA.

The Paris edition of the *New York Herald* publishes a telegram from its Canton correspondent stating that it is believed Germany intends to annex an island in the Pacific in order to turn it into a naval base.

This supposition is strengthened by the fact that the Commandant of the German "Squadron" at Canton has shipped on board a German steamer a quantity of food supplies, guns, ammunition, and material for the erection of barracks.

The destination of the vessel is unknown. The British authorities have sent the cruiser *Flores* to watch the German vessel.—*Central News*.

MORPHINE SMUGGLING.

THE LATEST DODGE.

The Chinese chemists who up to a few months ago did a considerable trade in morphine and other opium substitutes until stopped by the Customs people, have, it seems, adopted a new method of late, says a Bangkok paper. They took to getting their morphine put into ordinary but non-leakable envelopes and forwarded to them through the ordinary letter post. This practice appears to have acted very well but the other day an accident happened. The corner of one of the envelopes got broken in Post Office No. 11 and out trickled a little stream of white powder. It was a bit of a mystery to the Postal Officials took it to the Customs, where the stuff was at once recognized as morphine. The envelope was detained and by-and-by others arrived, each similar in guise, and addressed to chemists in the Taipei Noi district. There are three of these altogether two of whom are being prosecuted in the Siamese Court and the third in the British.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORTS.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadorie & Co. write on the 8th instant:

"To-morrow being Good Friday, we are issuing our circular a day earlier than usual. A fair investment business has been transacted during the week under review and prices for most stocks have been well maintained."

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have weakened slightly to \$2.55, at which rate sales have been effected. The close of the day buyers prevail. In London, a firmer feeling exists, and the price has risen to \$2.60.

Marine Insurance.—Canton has been dealt in, in small lots, at \$1.75, and there are more buyers. North China are wanted at \$1.20. Unions are weaker and obtainable at \$2.45. There are buyers of Yangtze at \$1.25, but sellers are not forthcoming at the rate. Fire Insurance.—China Fire is offering at \$1.05. Hongkong Fire is stronger with inquiries at \$1.20.

Shipping.—China and Manila, after sales at \$7, are required for at \$8, without including sellers. Douglases are wanted at \$3.55. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have been sold during the week at \$2.75, \$2.95, and \$2.95, but at the close there are sellers at the latter rate. Indo-China continue to deal at \$4.00 and \$2.00 for the preferred and deferred shares respectively, but with the better prospects of shipping, buyers are loath to sell at present. Shell Transporters can be placed at the improved rate of \$5.60.

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Bar Silver 33 9/16
Gold of England rate 21 7/8
Sovereign 17 3/4

OTIUM QUOTATIONS.
The following quotations are as follows:

Malaya New 3 7/10, 1/100
Old 3 1/10, 1/100
Older 3 1/10, 1/100
Oldest 3 1/10, 1/100

Patna New 3 7/10, 1/100
Old 3 1/10, 1/100
Older 3 1/10, 1/100
Oldest 3 1/10, 1/100

Benares New 3 7/10, 1/100
Old 3 1/10, 1/100
Older 3 1/10, 1/100
Oldest 3 1/10, 1/100

Parian (Paper) 3 7/10, 1/100

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

CAPT. F. A. Twiss has been appointed instructor in gunnery at Hongkong.

CAPT. O. U. Niven, R.G.A., has been selected for service with the Hongkong-Singapore Battalion R.G.A.

CONSUL-GENERAL Amos P. Wilder embarked on board the *Wakamatsu Maru* this evening, proceeding on home leave.

Among the passengers who arrived by the *ss. Yawata Maru* last Monday morning, was Admiral Sir Harry H. Rawson.

According to the provisions of the French Admiralty for 1910, the *Dupleix* will replace the *d'Entrecasteaux* at Saigon.

Mr. J. W. Bandow has been appointed a director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank during the absence on leave of Mr. G. Friedland.

The King's exequatur empowering Mr. J. H. de Reus to act as Consul-General for the Netherlands at Hongkong has received His Majesty's signature.

The new crew for the surveying ship *Merlin* has left the Albert Dock for Hongkong, where the *Merlin* will be paid off and recommissioned for further service in Chinese waters.

The *Derflinger Tagblatt* states that the German cruiser squadron in the Far East is to be reduced to three vessels, and that no substitute will be sent out for the *Niebo*, now on her way home.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Dr. G. M. Harston to be a member of the Medical Board and to serve as secretary during the absence from the Colony of Dr. F. O. Steadman.

Information has been received from the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs that a derelict junk of about 150 tons has been sighted in "Formosa Channel"—Latitude 24° 57' N; Longitude 119° 53' E.

A TOKIO despatch, of 12th inst., says:—In pursuance of the proceedings that have been taken in the matter of the alleged irregularities in connection with the Japan Sugar Company, extensive domiciliary searches were made yesterday, and not a few persons have been detained for examination in Tokyo and Osaka.

One former director and one former member of Parliament have been arrested to-day.

A DISTURBANCE took place in the "Shoung Fa" house, at 18, Belcher's Street, West Point, last night. Three men—a cook and two others—in a fit of jealousy, attacked a clerk named Chan Shu Tuen, and savagely assaulted him. They then turned upon a District Watchman, who had been sent for to quell the trouble. They were armed in the Police Court to-day, and only one of the defendants was found guilty. He was fined \$15. The others were discharged.

NEARLY a month ago a coolie, by name Chu San, who was arrested, charged, and remanded on a charge of being a rogue and vagabond managed to escape from police custody. Policeman Routledge succeeded, however, in locating the fugitive last Tuesday in an opium den at West Point. On Wednesday, Chu San appeared before the Magistrate on three charges, as follows:—(1) a rogue and vagabond; (2) assaulting a policeman with the intention of securing his release; and (3) with being in possession of illicit opium. The case was remanded.

A CORONER'S inquiry was held at the Magistrate's on the 8th inst. concerning the death of a coolie, Cheng Tin, aged twenty-two, who came to a terrible end at Hongkong on the 2nd ult. According to the evidence Cheng Tin was engaged in unloading a ship, when a rock, weighing about two tons, crashed down the hillside. It struck the unfortunate labourer immediately above the stomach, and crushed him to death. "Accidental death" was the verdict returned. Police Sergeant Watt, of Hongkong Police Station, was present during the proceedings.

MA HOI LIX, the master of the *Kam Tai Un*, a trading junk, was charged in the Police Court, this morning, as follows:—(1) With failing to report the Dangerous Goods Anchorage while having a cargo of dynamite on board; (2) failing to hoist the red flag, (giving false particulars to Harbour Office prior to his departure from the Colony on the 4th instant; and (3) with being in possession of a revolver without permission. On all the charges the defendant was found guilty. On the first he was ordered to pay a fine of \$15, and on the fourth the revolver was ordered to be forfeited.

A COAL-merchant by name Leung Chin Son, carrying on business at 71, Des Voeux Road, was arrested yesterday on a charge of returning from banishment. Mr. Otto Koenig Sling appeared for the defence. In November last Leung was convicted and sentenced to six months' hard labour for embezzlement. On the expiry of his term he was deported for five years. He returned and set up business again a few days ago. The defence put up on this occasion is that Leung is a British subject and cannot be banished. The case was adjourned in order to secure his birth certificate.

As concerns the revenue of Hongkong and that considerable proportion which is contributed by the Opium Farm, it is seemingly not to be the question of "our money and other people's money." The practical and statesmanlike memorandum laid before the Legislative Council of Hongkong by the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, states that Lord Cromer, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has undertaken to ask Parliament for a substantial contribution towards making good the loss in the Colony's revenue in other words, the British taxpayer is to pay for some portion, at least, of the revenue that is entirely contributed to the Chinese in their crusade, and we shall go a little ahead of that Government in seeking to eradicate the habit, but if we pass sympathetic resolutions in Parliament we must be prepared to stand our share of the financial consequences thereof. In Hongkong, and the Straits Settlements, the case is different.

It is stated that, in all, forty-eight opium shops and stores in Peking have recently been closed by the police.

The Japanese steamer *Admiral Maru*, laden with beans, is reported to have sunk at Newchwang on 5th inst.

The office of the Imperial Russian Consulate has been removed from Prince's Building, to No. 8, Peak Road, "Derlington."

ADMIRAL Sah Chen-ping is consulting with the Government Ministers concerning the possible redemption of Weihaiwei, as it is an excellent harbour for a naval base.

ALBERT HERRAUX and Paul Finer, who are undergoing lengthy sentences in the Shanghai gaol, are to be sent to Hongkong, probably this week, to serve their sentences here.

The *Chfoo Daily News* states that Mr. A. A. Williamson, American Vice-Consul in charge at Tientsin, will also perform consular duties for Holland in succession to Mr. R. S. Greene.

A JAPANESE girl named Miss Takano, who has gone to England as a Salvation Army cadet, is collecting for the Self-Denial Fund near the Bank, where she naturally attracts a good deal of attention.

The Chinese Engineering and Mining Company's total output of the Company's three mines for the week ending 27th March amounted to 27,109.4 tons, and the sales during the period to 27,015.4 tons.

The steamer *Fudo Maru*, belonging to the Japanese firm which is exploiting Pratas Island, left Yokohama, on the 6th inst. with provisions, to ascertain the situation of the Japanese settlers in Pratas.

Mr. Frederick O'Brien, editor of the *Cable News* (of Manila) arrived in the Colony on the 8th inst. He will visit Canton during his stay here, and leaves for the United States in a few days on a holiday.

The Chinese Government contemplates appropriating the salt duties to provide funds for the re-organization of the Navy, and the proposition is highly approved by H.E. Shao Ying, Vice-President of the Ministry of Finance.

It is reported that extensive orders for guns, rifles, and ammunition are to be placed in France by the Chinese Government. Members of the Chinese mission are now visiting the principal arms factories in this connection.

The laying of the foundation stone of the new Mission to Seamen's Institute situated on Praya East, a little to the left of Arden Street, will take place on Wednesday, 28th inst. at 5.15 p.m. The ceremony will be performed by H.E. Sir Frederick Lugard.

The Governor of Kwangsi province has decided on a set of provisional regulations with the French authorities in Indo-China in regard to frontier troops on the frontiers and has submitted these regulations for the approval of the Waluapu.

THE P. and O. Company's *ss. India*, which left London on 14th ult. took the following specie for Shanghai:—Bar Silver 247,000.

SIGNOR Brambilla, the newly-appointed First Secretary to the Italian Legation in Peking, has left London for Italy, and left Peking on 2nd ult. for China to take up his duties.

The Admiralty announces the appointment of Lieut. R. W. K. Hope to the *King Alfred* on the *Bedford* paying off, and addition, for 12 months' study of Japanese, to date May 15.

MORRIS BOM, the "general agent," who was accused of the larceny (by bailie) of \$500 belonging to one Don Jackson, of Kowloon, has found guilty at the Magistracy yesterday. He was sentenced to two months' hard labour.

INSPECTOR Collett prosecuted a boatman and his wife in the Police Court yesterday morning, for stealing a quantity of fireworks belonging to the shipyard at Quarry Bay. They were found guilty of unlawful possession, and a fine of \$15 each was imposed.

As the Government is informed of public agitation in Kwangtung in connection with the Macao Boundary question, and fears that the people may resort to another boycott movement, it has ordered the Viceroy in Kwangtung to take steps to pacify the people, for China does not want any further international complications.

The body of the coolie, who fell into the harbour the other day, whilst carrying a load on board the steamer *Kwong Tung*, was recovered last Wednesday afternoon. The corpse was first seen by a number of schoolboys, off Connaught Road Central, and the police were informed. The body was picked up and taken to the mortuary.

REPORTS from Negros island state that the sugar plantations are overrun with locusts which are doing immense damage to sugar, both the growing crop and that which is ready for the mill. So great is the plague of these locusts that there are not enough labourers available to drive them off. The estates of Cadiz Nuevo, Hingnam, Isabela, and Binalbagan are the heaviest sufferers.

A somewhat serious fire broke out in the wood-drying rooms of the Green Island Cement works at Hingnam, early yesterday morning. The outbreak lasted several hours. The fire broke out in the drying room, and did good work. At about ten o'clock yesterday morning the fire was entirely extinguished. The origin of the fire was put down to the overheating of the wood. The damage is estimated at about \$1,000.

SO HUN, a coolie, unemployed, was, in the Police Court, to-day (15th inst.), sentenced to three months' hard labour, to receive twenty-four strokes of the birch, and to be exposed in the stocks for six hours for stealing a gold earring from a Chinese woman in Queen's Road Central yesterday afternoon. The woman, Kwok See, had just come in from Cheungshan Island, and was on her way to make a purchase, when she was submitted to the attack.

INSPECTOR Gourtley, who is stationed at head-quarters, prosecuted a coolie last Wednesday morning in the Police Court for larceny on board the steamer *San Cheung* on Tuesday night. The story as told was that defendant (Au Fuk), a bag packer, went on board the Canton steamer under the second class compartment, he purloined a bundle of clothing belonging to a passenger, who was awakened by the noise caused by letting fall the bundle, and his arrest followed. —Sequel—Six weeks' hard labour and six hours' stocks.

It is said that the Japanese Naval Department is about to lay down at Makuru a destroyer which will be the second largest in the world, the largest being H. B. M. ship *Swift*, which has a displacement of 1,800 tons and a speed of 36 knots. The new Japanese destroyer will be called the *Unikaze* (sea wind). It will have a displacement of 1,100 tons and a speed of 35 knots, and her armament will consist of one 4.7-in. quick-firer; eight 4-in. quick-firers and four torpedo tubes. She is to be laid down in the course of the present month, and it is expected that she will be ready for sea by the end of October.

Two months' hard labour and twenty-four strokes of the birch was the sentence passed by Mr. F. A. Harland, in the Police Court to-day (15th inst.), on a coolie, who was found guilty of stealing a watch. The complainant was a Miss R. Yowkie, residing at 81, Sai Tai, and at about five o'clock yesterday afternoon, while on her way from Kowloon City, she was attacked by a man named Tsau Shang Un, who snatched her gold watch and chain, which she was wearing at the time. The thief was pursued; four stonecutters joined in the chase, and secured the watch, who returned the watch to Sergeant Sim later. He pleaded guilty to the charge, and received the sentence already stated.

LAST Tuesday afternoon an unemployed seaman named I Kun Hing called on a shopkeeper at 150, Temple Street, Yau-ma-tei, and asked for a loan of a couple of dollars. The shopkeeper, Cheung Hui, agreed to lend the seaman the money later, and at the same time inquired whether I Kun Hing would look after the shop while he went out to settle a debt. I consented, and the shopkeeper departed. During his absence, the seaman forced open a drawer, stole \$50, and left. When the shopkeeper returned he discovered the loss and reported the matter to the police. I was arrested on a charge of larceny. He was found guilty by Mr. J. H. Kemp in the Police Court, on Wednesday, and was given two months' hard labour.

THE *Manila Cabaret* of 6th inst. says:—Colonel "Bob" Love, the popular manager of Hamilton's Circus, now in Manila, was taken to San Lazaro Hospital yesterday morning (14th inst.) from an attack of small-pox. Colonel Love was stricken with the dread disease during the night, and as soon as its nature was ascertained was immediately taken to San Lazaro. At a late hour last night he was resting easily but it will be several days before he is definitely known whether the attack is a virulent one or simply superficial. Colonel Love was recently successfully vaccinated, and it will be of material assistance to him in his fight against the malady which has laid him low. His many friends sympathize with him and all eagerly await the news of his speedy recovery.

THE *Robt Herald* of 6th inst. reports:—A fire at last evening, a fire occurred at the Ashikawa Electric Station, Osaka, in the central of the electric power plant. As all the electric lights had been put out, a terrible panic set in, the spectators fighting in the darkness to get outside. The flames spread with great rapidity to the Kairora theatre next door, where there was an audience of about two hundred spectators. Here, again, a serious panic took place, the people struggling frantically to get through the doorways, while others were made worse by the blocking of the street outside by the crowd. The flames continued to spread, and altogether, three theatres and seven houses were destroyed. When the manager was dispatched, it was still uncertain if any lives were lost.

"Who are members of the Sanitary Department in contradiction to officials?" was the question asked by Mr. A. Shelton Hooper at the Chairman (Mr. R. O. Hutchinson) during the discussion of the consideration of the Public Health Amendment Bill at the meeting of the Sanitary Board last Tuesday afternoon. The Chairman looked around him for enlightenment. None was forthcoming. The puzzle still requires solution, but as doubtless it will be thrown on the question before long.

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Mails.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,
BREMER.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP and HAMBURG	"GODEM" Capt. B. Wilhelm	WEDNESDAY, 21st April.
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA	"DEUTLINGER" Capt. G. Meiners	About WEDNESDAY, 21st April.
MANILA, YAP, NEWGUINEA, BRISBANE, SYDNEY and MELBOURNE	"PRINCE SIGISMUND" Capt. D. Lenz	THURSDAY, 22nd April, 5 P.M.
KUDAT and SANDAKAN	"BORNEO" Capt. F. Sembill	Beginning of May.

For further Particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

MELCHERS & CO.,

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL LINES.

FORTNIGHTLY SERVICE TO and FROM EUROPE via SUEZ CANAL.
TO and FROM JAPAN via SHANGHAI.

FOR	STEAMERS	CAPTAINS	TO SAIL ON
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, OCEANIC	.....	.....	26th April, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS	ERNEST SIMONS	.....	27th April, at 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, POLYNESIAN	.....	.....	10th May, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS	TOKIN	.....	11th May, at 4 P.M.

Transshipment on the Co's Steamers at Singapore for Batavia; at Colombo for Calcutta, Bombay and Australia; at Port Said for the Levant, Constantinople and Black Sea.

Through Tickets to London via Paris from £27.10 up to £71.10. 30 hours' railway from Marseilles to London.

Interpreters meet passengers at their arrival in Marseilles.

For further particulars, apply to

P. de CHAMPMORIN,

AGENT,

QUEEN'S BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

MESSAGERIES CANTONNAISES.

FRENCH LINE OF STEAMERS BETWEEN HONGKONG, CANTON AND KOUANG-SI.

S.S. "PAUL BEAU," 1,000 tons, 14 knots.
S.S. "CHARLES HARDOUIN," 1,000 tons, 14 knots.

The speediest, most luxuriously appointed and punctual steamers on the line

Departure from Hongkong at 10 P.M. (Saturdays excepted).

Departure from Canton at 5.15 P.M. (Sundays excepted).

These superb steamers carry the French Mail are fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fans and were specially built for this trade. Excellent cuisine.

The Company's Own Wharf near Wing Lok Street and its berth in Canton opposite Shamone.

For further particulars, please apply to the COMPANY'S OFFICE at Shamone, Canton, or to their Agents.

BARRETTO & CO., Hongkong.

Hongkong, 9th October, 1908.

HONGKONG-MANILA-
ILOILO-CEBU.

Regular Steamship Service between Hongkong and above ports.

Steamship	Tonnage	Captain	For	Sailing Date
S.S. "MANDAL"	1,917	Erickson	MANILA	About 20th April, 1909.
S.S. "RIGEL"	1,750	Sievert	Do	About 30th April, 1909.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BARRETTO & CO.

Agents

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

Intimations.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., LTD.

No. 1 DOCK.

Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 95 ft., bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.

No. 2 DOCK.

Length inside, 875 ft. Width of entrance, top 60.5 ft., bottom 45.8 ft. Water on blocks, 26.5 ft. Time to pump out, 3 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyd's surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Tugboats are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 35 tons.

Steam Launches of Steel or Wood, Lighters, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work, and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranteed.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos. 878, 508, or 681.

Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codes A. B. O. 4th and 5th Edt.

Liebert, Scotts,

A. I. and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1909.

PHILATELIC NOVELTY
suitable for
PRESENTS.

BAGS OF USED POSTAGE STAMPS.

Containing:

All Asiatic Stamps.	All Chinese Stamps.
4,000 for \$3.00	4,000 for \$4.50
3,000 " 7.00	3,000 " 5.50
2,000 " 5.00	2,000 " 3.50
700 " 2.00	1,000 " 1.50
300 " 1.00	500 " 1.00

Also Stamps in Packets and Sets, and other Philatelic Requisites at prices to suit every body.

VIEW POSTCARDS, ALBUMS, HINGES, RAFAEL TUCKER'S TOY BOOKS AND RELIEF SCRAPES, MANILA CIGARS and CIGARETTES, &c., &c.

Inspection invited.

GRACA & CO.,

No. 27, Des Vieux Road.

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE.

LI KWONG LOONG & CO.,

CABINET-MAKERS and ART DECORATORS,

from Shanghai, has re-opened their FURNITURE STORE

at

No. 39, DES VIEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

The only Shop in Hongkong with this name.

WHERE HIGH-CLASS FURNITURE

of every description can be made to

order in any design required.

Have been patronized by the Hongkong Club, Hongkong Hotel, Telegraph Co., Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Firms and other leading Establishments in the Colony, to whom reference can be made as to the Superior Workmanship and Materials of the Furniture, &c., supplied.

Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., write as follows:

"We have pleasure in stating that Mr. LI KWONG LOONG furnished the Annex to our Dispensary and gave us every satisfaction."

(Sd.) A. S. WATSON & CO.

25th May, 1909.

ORDERS punctually attended to, and CHARGES most moderate.

AN INSPECTION INVITED.

Hongkong 4th Avenue, 1908.

Notices of Firms.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

MR. T. I. ROSE having resigned the position of Secretary, Mr. G. H. CALDWELL has been appointed ACTING SECRETARY from this date.

By Order of the Board of Directors, H. P. WHITE, Acting Chairman.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1909.

INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR

EXPRESS TRAINS Co.

(THE GREAT TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE TO EUROPE.)

HAVING been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, we shall be pleased to give any information as to rates of passage, &c., in connection with above.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.

Agents.

Hongkong, 11th July, 1909.

To Let.

TO LET.

SHOP and DWELLING HOUSE, No. 77, Queen's Road, Central.

Apply to—

S. J. DAVID & Co.,

Prince's Buildings.

Hongkong, 25th March, 1909.

TO LET.

NO. 3 CLIFTON GARDENS, CONDUIT ROAD.

A HOUSE in WONG-NEI-CHONG ROAD.

A HOUSE in RIPOW TERRACE.

OFFICES in YORK BUILDING.

GODOWNS in PRAYA EAST, BLUE BUILDINGS, and No. 168, DES VIEUX ROAD next to the Hongkong Hotel.

FLATS in MORRISON TERRACE.

No. 10, DES VIEUX ROAD CENTRAL, 1st Floor.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

1st Floor, 1st April, 1909.

TO LET.

NOS. 51, 53, & 55, WONG-NEI-CHONG ROAD.

Apply to—

HONGKONG & KOWLOON LAND & LOAN CO., LTD.

No. 8, Queen's Road West.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1909.

TO LET.

GODOWN No. 54, DUNDRELL STREET.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1909.

TO LET.

TWO AIRY ROOMS in a house on BELLIOS TERRACE, first row, entrance from Robinson Road. Moderate Rental. For particulars, apply to—

"HOUSEHOLDER,"

C/o Hongkong Telegraph.

Hongkong, 5th March, 1909.

TO LET.

OFFICES and ROOMS on the 1st and 2nd Floors of No. 14, Des Vieux Road Central (formerly occupied by Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co.). Keats low.

Apply to—

THE COMPTON DEPARTMENT,

E. D. Sassoon & Co.,

Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1909.

TO LET.

ROOMS suitable for Office in No. 10, 108 HOUSE STREET, in rear of David Sassoon & Co.'s premises.

CHAMBERS with Bathroom and use of Kitchen in No. 31, WYNDHAM STREET known as "College Chambers."

Apply to—

DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1909.

Dentistry.

TSIN TING.

LATEST METHODS OF DENTISTRY.

STUDIO AT NO. 14, D'AGUIAR STREET.

REASONABLE FEES.

Consultation Free.

Hongkong, 20th June, 1904.

DR. H. H. CHAUN.

THE LATEST METHOD

of the

AMERICAN SYSTEM OF DENTISTRY

in QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

From the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1909.

PERANG.

THE FATHER OF THE STRAITS.

Penang, the most northern of the Straits Settlements, was the first of the old East India Company's possessions in Malaya, and the great Warren Hastings personally interested himself in its foundation, which event marked a new departure in British policy in these regions. Penang, however, appears to have always been in some degree unfortunate, and one gets the impression that the place has never assumed the importance that its promoters originally intended. Early intentions were good, but fate had a way of intervening to ordain otherwise. It occurs to the visitor that Penang suffers from a grievance, the inheritance of many decades, and there is a feeling of dissatisfaction that other places have acquired the glory which should by right have belonged to Penang, the father of the British Straits Settlements. Penang was born for great things, and was to play no mean part in counteracting Dutch policy in Malaya, but her younger sister, Singapore, founded 25 years later, soon out-distanced her in commercial and maritime greatness. In the early days Penang the elder entertained doubtful feelings of pity and compassion for Singapore the younger, and considered the latter such a weakly child that she suggested it being given to the Dutch. Penang at the time was overflowing with the pride and dignity of the chief township of this far off Indian Presidency, and, sad to relate, but a few years had elapsed before Penang had to suffer the humiliation of seeing the seat of Government transferred to Singapore. Penang was ever ready to complain about the advantages and handicaps of the forced connection with India, and it was always a sore point with her that she was made the dumping ground for Indian convicts. Penang looked forward to the day when, free from Indian control, she could work out her own destiny. When some years later this happy day arrived it was the younger sister who forged ahead, and reaped most of the advantages of the increased trade with the F.M.S. Poor Penang has had a life of disappointments, and now the grumblings are directed against the Government at Singapore, which endeavours to beautify and enlarge the Lion City to the neglect of the needs and demands of Penang.

At the present day Penang is thankful for small mercies, and quite recently, when the Governor of the Straits Settlements paid a visit to the town, which is only one day by sea from Singapore, the event was considered a great honour. Both Penang and people welcomed the Governor with a fervour as though they were not often given this privilege, and an onlooker could only suppose that the visits of the Governor to such a far distant part of his colony were few and far between. The vast amount of business which the Governor performed in the course of a few hours was the subject of favourable comment, and no doubt His Excellency's programme was drawn up on the undisputed fact that a little while in Penang goes a very long way. A short visit to Penang does not impress one favourably, but at the same time, the town probably has its good points like other places in the East. A resident who has his home and friends there, reserves a warm corner in his heart for Penang, and prefers the town to Singapore, but the impartial observer who has had his few days in either town can only marvel at this preference. Penang may improve on acquaintance, but at first sight, it is a city asleep, and possesses few, if any, of the attractions to be found in Singapore, and the large sea ports of India.

Customs are different. Much greater freedom is allowed in dress. All the white men wear the white coat with comfortable military collar attached, and you see no linen collars and ties. This is much cooler as it obviates the necessity for wearing a shirt; a thin vest is all that is necessary underneath the coat. The top is the round white Singapore hat. The Caron helmet is sadly out of fashion, and at once denotes the visitor, as the quaint Port Said top attracts attention in Bombay. The planters all wear khaki, and the brown shikari top, and the commercial men wear whites. If you have on a collar and a tie then residents put you down at once as a visitor. Concerning the climates Penang is undoubtedly hot, if possible, more trying than Bombay, and perspiration is the order of the day. In the matter of dress Penang goes one better than India in abolishing the stiff collar, but in other respects India pays more attention to the social amenities of life than Penang appears to do. Penang is largely self-centred. It cares little about the outside. A few brightly worded cables keep the residents informed of the passing events of the time, and this apparently meets the case. Penang strikes the visitor as intensely parochial. The problems of empire have lost their significance by the time they reach this island at the mouth of the Straits of Malacca, and Mr. Chamberlain's message "To think imperially" has passed by its shore unheeded. —*Times of India Correspondent.*

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

FROM and after 1st January, 1909, the rates of Subscription to the Hongkong Telegraph (daily and weekly issues) will be as follows:

DAILY—\$50 per annum.

WEEKLY—\$13 per annum.

The rates per quarter and per month, proportional. Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month.

The daily issue is delivered free when the address is accessible to messengers. Post subscribers can have their copies delivered at their residences without any extra charge. On copies sent by post an additional \$1.50 per quarter is charged for postage.

The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the world is 30 cents per quarter. Single Copies, Daily, two cents. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for cash only).

(PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.)

There will be no rebate to Missionary Subscribers as heretofore.

By Order,

THE MANAGER,

Hongkong Telegraph Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 2nd December, 1908.

WEATHER-FORCAST AND
STORM-WARNINGS ISSUED
FROM THE HONGKONG
OBSERVATORY.

METEOROLOGICAL SIGNALS.

Meteorological signals are hoisted on the mast in front of the Water Police Station at Tsim Sha Tsui for the information of masters of vessels leaving the port. They do not necessarily imply that bad weather is expected here:—

Signal No.

1. A CONE

point upwards

Indicates a Typhoon to the North of the Colony.

2. A CONE

point upwards and DRUM below

Indicates a Typhoon to the North-East of the Colony.

3. A DRUM

Indicates a Typhoon to the East of the Colony.

4. A CONE

point downwards and DRUM below

Indicates a Typhoon to the South-East of the Colony.

5. A CONE

point downwards

Indicates a Typhoon to the South of the Colony.

6. A CONE

point downwards and BALL below

Indicates a Typhoon to the South-West of the Colony.

7. A BALL

Indicates a Typhoon to the West of the Colony.

8. A CONE

point upwards and BALL below

Indicates a Typhoon to the North-West of the Colony.

Red Signals indicate that the centre is believed to be more than 300 miles away from the Colony.

Black Signals indicate that the centre is believed to be less than 300 miles away from the Colony.

The above signals will, as heretofore, be hoisted only when typhoons exist in such positions or are moving in such directions that information regarding them is considered to be of importance to the Colony or to shipping leaving the harbour.

These signals are repeated at the Harbour Office, H.M.S. Tamar, Green Island Signal Mast, and the Flagstaff on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon.

URGENT SIGNAL.

In addition to the above, when it is expected that the wind may increase to full typhoon force at any moment, the following Urgent Signal will be made at the Water Police Station, and repeated at the Harbour Office:—

THREE EXPLOSIVE BOMBS, AT INTERVALS OF TEN SECONDS.

A Black Cross will be hoisted at the same time, superior to the other shapes.

NIGHT SIGNALS.

The following Night Signals will be exhibited from the Flagstaff on the roof of the Water Police Station at Kowloon, the Harbour Office Flagstaff, and H.M.S. Tamar:

I. Three Lights Vertical, Green Green Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated more than 300 miles from the Colony.

II. Three Lights Vertical, Green Red Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated less than 300 miles from the Colony.

III. Three Lights Vertical, Red Green Red, indicates that a typhoon is believed to increase to full typhoon force at any moment.

No. III. Signal will be accompanied by the Explosive Bombs, as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being first published by night.

These Night Signals will be substituted for the Day Signals at sunset, and will, when necessary, be altered during the night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNINGS.

For the benefit of Native Craft and passing Ocean Vessels, a Cone will be exhibited at each of the following stations during the time that any of the above Day Signals are hoisted in the Harbour:

Gap Rock Aberdeen.

Waglan San Ki Wan.

Stanley Sai Kung.

Cape Collinson Sha Tau Kok.

Tai Po.

This will indicate that there is a depression somewhere in the China Sea, and that a Storm Warning is hoisted in the Harbour.

Further details can always be given to Coast Vessels, on demand, by signal, from the Light House.

F. G. YOUNG, Observer.

Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

CHEMISTS

BY APPOINTMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR AND HOUSEHOLD.

Watson's HYGIENOL, AND BUBONIC PLAGUE!

It has been proved by repeated experiments that "WATSON'S HYGIENOL" is the most potent agent for the destruction of fleas, especially rat fleas.

It has now been proved that Plague is conveyed to human beings by means of fleas from rats which have died of this disease.

All risk of infection can be avoided by washing the floors, etc., or sprinkling where the fleas are likely to be, with a dilute solution of "WATSON'S HYGIENOL." A tea-spoonful to a pint of water, or a tea-cupful to three gallons, makes a solution of the strength required for this purpose.

HYGIENOL IS A POWERFUL DISINFECTANT AND GERMICIDE

Price per Pint.....50 cents
" " Gallon.....\$2.00

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY
AND
KOWLOON DISPENSARY.
Hongkong, 17th March, 1909. [28]

NOTICE.

All communications intended for publication in "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" should be addressed to The Editor, 1, The Hong Kong, and should be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address.

Ordinary business communications should be addressed to The Manager.
The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected M.S., nor to return any Contribution.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE (IN ADVANCE).

DAILY—180 per annum.
WEEKLY—415 per annum.
The rates for quarter and per annum, proportional Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month.
The daily rate is delivered free when the address is given with no messenger. Post-subscribers can have their copies delivered at their residences without any extra charge. On copies sent by post an additional \$1.00 per quarter is charged for postage. The postage on the weekly issue in any part of the world is 80 cents per copy. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for cash only).

BIRTH.

On February 15, 1909, at Chateau du Mont D'Oisel, Cauze, Dordogne France, the wife of Louis Rocher (Commissioner of Customs, retired), of a son—JEAN.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

CHINA'S CAPABILITIES.

Some writer in the *Shanghai Mercury* has been doing his utmost to malign the Chinese character and their ability. His trouble is about the "regeneration of a decadent race." It is astonishing in these circumstances to find that the Powers do not consider China either a backward country or one given to such foolish transactions as distinguishing the principality of Bulgaria. The writer in question is most serious when he says: "The task is the task which China has set herself; the means are Chinese means. Few people have ever stopped to consider the magnitude of the work which China must accomplish before she can attain the object she has at heart and of these few we very much doubt if there is even one who can claim either Chinese or Manchu descent. The task has been begun and its burdens assumed with no clear understanding of the immensity of the labour, the complexity of the scheme, or the world-wide knowledge required for its successful achievement. Let there be light, is the native reformer's cry, but it is altogether another question whether, by the concluding section of the sentence, will read, 'and there was light.' Of course, it may be taken for granted that the author of such an admission does other than a disappointed

individual—perhaps, we only suggest it as a reminiscence, a missionary. China, we are told, has to tackle two or three subjects, the first of which is law. The *lex non scripta* cited is referred to, but the unwritten law came not from the visitors but from China herself. Even the American codists admit that. As the writer says on this point: "In calling it unwritten we are following western custom, although of course the term does not apply in one sense, and never has since the introduction of printing, for one of the first things to be committed to the press was a more or less complete selection of legal maxims and treasured judgments. "Unwritten Law," however, is strictly that of which no origin can be traced, as opposed to "Statute Law" of which we know the beginning and the end. Now China has a vast mass of such law, some of it extremely good, and most of it (in theory) admirably suited to Chinese character and requirements. In theory only be it remembered, for a very superficial acquaintance with Chinese proverbial lore is sufficient to show that between the excellence of a law and the excellence of its administration there is a gulf as wide as that between heaven and Hades. It is plain, therefore, that there is a double task before the Chinese in this connection. First they must convert their judges to justice, and secondly they must bring their heterogeneous mass of legal tradition to a modern code, and then collate it with an equally vast mass of western law, for that is what they have set out to do. How many of them have ever put foot within the law library of an up-to-date barrister or solicitor? How many of them know anything at all of the many specialists that there are in connection with western law? And have any of them considered how many Chinese there are fitted for such a task as the compilation of such a code?" This hand of the layman can be deciphered there. And read the ridiculous smiles: "If we turn to educational matters, the same difficulty confronts us. It is hardly too much to say that there is not a Chinaman alive who is competent to draw up a national scheme of education for the kindergarten to the university. There are many Chinese who have graduated from colleges and universities in England, America, and elsewhere, but that does not make them authorities on education any more than travelling by sea makes the captain of a ship a competent naval architect." Such a remark can see the futility of any such remark. Fortunately the Chinese themselves are not obsessed by the idea of their own importance. Indeed the Chinese can see things clearly. Surely, the very fact that they send students at the Government expense to Europe and America is proof positive that their alleged decadence is a myth. Another thing: "It is probably unknown to China the extent to which the European nations have drawn upon each other for help in this respect. American development has been very largely built on the ability of the men she got from England. At this moment there are many English professors in her colleges. Now she is returning the benefit in a hundred different ways. The same is true of the relationship of England with other lands. We learnt silk work from France, and wool from Holland. In return we taught them railway construction and so on. Hundreds of other instances might be adduced. If then China were to call in skilled assistance from the outside she might then make her start on the right lines, and everything depends on that. Japan did so. Without expert help we are convinced that China's efforts must end in failure, and then will be proved the truth of the prophecies of her enemies, that she is incapable of progress and must be treated accordingly." And this is the nation that is supposed to be decadent. Our only wonder is that the *Mercury* should have given publicity to such statements founded on sand and built on hypothesis. China was never more virile or vigorous than she is at the present time and to paraphrase an old saying, China will be China when nations (of the West) peter out.

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LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE French mail of the 16th March was delivered in London on the 15th inst.

CONSUL-GENERAL Amos P. Wilder embarks on board the *Wakamatsu Maru* this evening, proceeding on home leave.

VICKROY Han Shih-chang, of Manchuria, is reported to be demanding the surrender of the Japanese administration of Railway zones of South Manchuria. Japan, however, refuses to consider the proposal.

A COLLAPSE took place in Wyndham Street this afternoon. The framing of one of the verandahs, which, no doubt, had suffered from the effects of white ants, suddenly came down. Fortunately no one was hurt.

DECREES will be introduced in the course of next term at Oxford for the purpose of providing that no person shall be eligible for the Davis Scholarship in Chinese whose vernacular language is Chinese or Japanese.

THE China Squadron had hard times in losing first place in the recent battle practice, particularly as the margin of points was not a wide one. However, the squadron can console itself with its admitted all-round efficiency and the knowledge that modern gunnery began in it.

AN explosion took place on the 10th inst. in a private magazine in Osaka. The neighbouring houses were smashed, and a fire broke out. Thirty persons were killed and severely injured.

THE Japanese Minister in Peking has communicated with the Waiwupu complaining of the violent attitude of the Chinese press in Canton on the Pratas Island question, which excites the people against Japanese, and he requests the Chinese Government to forbid them from continuing this agitation.

THE new building in Bishopsgate-street for the head offices of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, erected on the site of the old Crosby Hall, has been completed by the contractors within the time allowed, and is now ready for occupation. The removal into the new premises took place on 27th ult. and business commenced to be transacted from the 29th ult.

A special meeting of the Geographical Society in Berlin on 12th ult. the Emperor and Empress being present, Dr. Sven Hedin read a paper concerning his last journey through Tibet. The traveller was presented with the Humboldt medal. Their Majesties subsequently received him in their private box, where the Emperor bestowed the Grand Gold Medal for Science on him.

A CHARGE of uttering a forged five dollar banknote was preferred against a coolie named Ko Tsung, in the Police Court, this afternoon. The defendant, it would appear, attempted to palm off the bill to a certain firm in the Colony. Mons. P. Dulac, cashier of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine, pronounced the bill a forgery, because of the absence of the watermark. The case was remanded.

A TOKIO despatch, of 12th inst. says:—In pursuance of the proceedings that have been taken in the matter of the alleged irregularities in connection with the Japan Sugar Company, extensive domiciliary searches were made yesterday, and not a few persons have been detained for examination in Tokio and Osaka. One former director and one former member of Parliament have been arrested to-day.

UNDER the new reorganisation and distribution of the fleet there will be no change in the composition or distribution of the ships of the China Squadron, or, for that matter, in any of the squadrons in the East, thereby confirming what was stated in these notes months ago re the rumours of the contemplated establishing of a battle squadron in Far Eastern waters. Nothing of the kind may be expected whilst the present Government is in power.

A DISTURBANCE took place in the "Sheung Fa" house, at 18, Belcher's Street, West Point, last night. Three men—a cook and two others—in a fit of jealousy, attacked a clerk named Chau Shau Tsun, and savagely assaulted him. They then turned upon a District Watchman, who had been sent for to quell the trouble. They were arraigned in the Police Court, to-day, and only one of the defendants was found guilty. He was fined \$5. The others were discharged.

MA HOI LEE, the master of the *Kom Tai Un*, a trading junk, was charged in the Police Court, this morning, as follows:—(1) With failing to go to the Dangerous Goods Anchorage while having a cargo of dynamite on board, (2) failing to hoist the red flag, (giving false particulars to Harbour Office prior to his departure from the Colony on the 4th instant, and (3) with being in possession of a revolver without permission. On all the charges the defendant was found guilty. On the first he was ordered to pay a fine of \$5, and on the fourth the revolver was ordered to be forfeited.

A COAL merchant by name Leung Chiu Sou, carrying on business at 71, Des Voeux Road, was arrested yesterday on a charge of returning from banishment. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the defence. On November last Leung was convicted and sentenced to six months' hard labour for embezzlement. On the expiry of his term he was deported for five years. He returned and set up business again a few days ago. The defence put up on this occasion is that Leung is a British subject and cannot be banished. The case was adjourned in order to secure his birth certificate.

ACTING Inspector of Junks Rocha prosecuted the master, Chim Yau, of trading junk No. 5834, in the Police Court, to-day, with exporting arms and ammunition from this Colony without the sanction from the authorities. As everybody knows every trading junk is allowed to carry a certain number of arms and ammunition, a list of which is contained in the licence. When 5834 returned from a trip yesterday, her "armory" was inspected, with the result that it was discovered that two pistols, two breech loaders, 100 R.L. cartridges, and thirteen pounds of powder were missing. The suspicion arose that the junk master had disposed of the goods to "pirates." As he was unable to give a satisfactory account of the loss, he was arrested. The case was remanded.

As concerns the revenue of Hongkong and that considerable proportion which is contributed by the Opium Farm, it is seemingly not to be a question of "our morals and other people's money." The practical and statesmanlike memorandum laid before the Legislative Council of Hongkong by the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, states that Lord Crews, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has undertaken to ask Parliament for a substantial contribution towards making good the loss in the Colony's revenue in other words, the British taxpayer is to pay for some portion, at least, of the vices that he asked other people to exercise. Our sympathies are entirely with the Chinese in their crusade, and we shall, so a little ahead of that Government is seeking to eradicate the habit, but if we pass sympathetic resolutions in Parliament we must be prepared to stand by them in the financial consequences thereof in Hongkong, and the Straits Settlements.—L. S. C. Express.

CIVIL SERVICE CRICKET CLUB.

NEW PAVILION OPENED.

Yesterday afternoon, a very interesting ceremony was performed by H.E. the Governor, when a handsome pavilion in place of the match which had hitherto done duty for the pavilion of the Civil Service Cricket Club was opened, under very auspicious conditions. There was a large gathering of members and friends who came to witness the ceremony. H.E. the Governor, who was accompanied by Capt. F. Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., and Capt. Simson, Private Secretary, was met on arrival by Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, President of the Club. Among those present were Hon. Mr. F. H. May (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Dr. A. J. Kinross, Mrs. Chatham, Miss Chatham, Mr. Justice Gompertz, and Mrs. Gompertz, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Mr. R. O. Hutchison, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. Clark, Mr. Arrington Smith, Mr. J. R. Wood, and Mr. Gray Scott.

On approaching the Club-house, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, His Excellency was presented with a silver key which bore the following words in engraved letters:—Presented to His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., by the Civil Service Cricket Club, April 15th, 1909.

The President of the Club, addressing the Governor, said:—Your Excellency, it is my agreeable duty to ask you to open the Civil Service Cricket Club pavilion which has been erected by the members by the money raised among themselves. The fact that they have succeeded in raising the sum to erect such a handsome building proves that they have very real live interest in their Club, and I hope it may long continue. Your Excellency's presence will stimulate that interest. I would ask your Excellency to open the building.

His Excellency then replied as follows to the gathering:—Ladies and Gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in opening this pavilion, and I wish success to the Civil Service Cricket Club. I hope you will witness from this charming pavilion many excellent matches, and that the Club will continue to prosper as it has done in the past. I have now very much pleasure in opening the building (Cheers).

His Excellency then unlocked the door with the silver key with which he was presented, after which, His Excellency asked those present to drink to the success of the Civil Service Cricket Club.

The toast having been honoured, Hon. Mr. Chatham thanked His Excellency for proposing success to the Civil Service Cricket Club, and asked the gathering to give three cheers for His Excellency, which were lustily accorded, together with a "tiger."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, games of lawn bowls and tennis were played, at which H.E. the Governor was an interested spectator.

DESTRUCTIVE GALE IN KOBE.

SEVERAL FATALITIES.

The *Japan Chronicle*, of 9th inst. says:—Further details of the gale on Tuesday night are to hand and prove that the damage inflicted was greater than at first supposed, and was not confined to Kobe. A two-story school building containing four class rooms, and covering 50 tatso of land, which was in course of construction as a new wing of the Shinyo Elementary School at Higashi-Shinriki, Hyogo, was blown down. The debris fell upon the old building which it was to replace, and crushed one of the class-rooms. The new building was expected to be completed on the 10th instant. The contracted cost of the building was about ¥5,000.

The building of the Hadase Iron Works at Wakonohama, Kobe, also collapsed. It covered 75 tatso of land. The damage along the Anshin Electric tramway is very serious. The Fukaya Station building was blown down; a building belonging to the Japan Suiyo Company at Magasaki also collapsed. At Sumiyoshi several houses came down. The country seat belonging to Mr. Rokuma of Nishinomoto, which was in course of construction, suffered a like fate.

Osaka was also a victim of the storm. The galvanised iron roof of the fertilizer factory belonging to the Settsu Oil Company at Nishinada was carried away while the chimney of the alcohol factory at Higashiohara, Nishinada, collapsed, as did also the boiler factory of the

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

CHINA MERCHANTS S. N. CO.

CONTEMPLATED OFFICIAL CONTROL.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

As soon as Viceroy Young Shi-chang arrives in Peking, it is proposed by the Ministry of Posts and Communications to arrange for taking over the management of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co.

WEN TSUNG YAO.

ARRIVAL IN TIBET.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

Wen Tsung-yao (formerly foreign secretary to the Viceroy at Canton, now Junior Amban in Tibet, has reported his arrival in Tibet.

He recommends that H.E. Chiu I-fong, Senior Amban, should be urged to proceed to Lhasa.

SIK LIANG.

ARRIVAL IN PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

H.E. Sik Liang, Viceroy designate of the Three Eastern Provinces, arrived in Peking yesterday.

PRINCE CHING.

ON SICK LEAVE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

Prince Ching is on sick leave. His Highness is suffering from pains in the side.

ENGLAND AND SIAM.

THE RECENT TREATY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

The Waiwupu regards the recently-concluded Treaty between Great Britain and Siam as detrimental to the interests of Chinese residents in Siam and proposes to take measures to improve the interests of Chinese subjects there.

FOREIGNERS IN MONGOLIA.

TRAVELLING PRIVILEGE CURTAILED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

The Central Government has telegraphed instructions to the Three Eastern Provinces to prevent foreigners from travelling in Mongolia.

Viceroy Hsu Shi-chang has telegraphed, in reply, stating that it would be difficult to comply with the instructions lest the friendly feelings of the Powers might be offended.

CHINA'S NAVAL SCHEMES.

NEW SUGGESTIONS.

In connection with the reorganization of the Imperial Navy, the Chinese Government has made the following suggestions:

1. That the different Viceroy and Governor be ordered to suggest the best means of raising a special fund by an additional impost.
2. That an increase of land taxes be levied as once for the initial expenses of the navy.
3. That an increase of duty on tobacco, wine, sugar and a house tax be levied for a fund towards the annual expenses.
4. That a subscription fund be started by awarding ranks of nobility to subscribers.
5. That a national loan be raised from among the Chinese residents abroad in the South Pacific Islands.
6. That foreign loans be raised.
7. That the China Merchants Company's fleet be subsidized for transport service in time of war.
8. That vessels be commissioned to protect fishing craft on the coast, and that the latter should pay a tax towards the Navy.

CLUB-MEMBER SORD.

FAILING TO PAY HIS CONTRIBUTION.

A claim was brought before Mr. Justice Gompertz, in the Supreme Court, this morning, by E. A. M. Williams against D. McCullum to recover the sum of \$15 which was due to the St. George's Club.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, appearing for the plaintiff, the liquidator, said that defendant was a member of the club, and under the rules it was compulsory, in the event of the club going into liquidation, for each member to contribute \$15 towards the club's assets. The defendant had not paid his contribution.

Mr. Justice Gompertz—Was he a member when the club went into liquidation?—Yes.

Judgment was entered for plaintiff in the absence of the defendant.

HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

MR. YIGO'S VISIT TO MANILA.

The Singapore Free Press writes editorially:—A statement of importance was made before the Hongkong Legislative Council at its last meeting with reference to the Observatory, its relations with the Manila Observatory, and its apparatus for recording and predicting weather warnings. Not only a few of our readers have noted, down below the local weather report, a number of lines of more or less cryptic significance, giving the place of origin of the telegram, the time of its dispatch, with particulars of the barometer, wind, temperature, humidity, sky and rain at the place. Whenever a typhoon comes into the region of the Observatory, a code word is appended giving its approximate position, direction of movement, and any available particulars. These wires come twice or thrice daily from Hongkong and Manila, and are transmitted by the Telegraph Company free of charge, and published for the use of mariners bound eastward from Singapore, and like to meet weather determined by these conditions. Fortunately, the neighbourhood between here and Hongkong is not so very bad for mariners, except in occasional typhoon seasons, but careful mariners keep an eye on the conditions that are shown to prevail at Hongkong and Manila, and apply to them the law of storms. Less careful captains trust to the experienced eye cocked over the weather bow, and to the barometer carried on board the vessel. If the weather telegrams are of use in only a small circle, yet when one considers that it may mean the salvation of a ship to know what weather she is likely to run into, the care and trouble taken to give the information are justified. In the Straits we are dependent on Hongkong and Manila. Those two stations are intimately connected in meteorological work, and a recent visit paid by the Director of the former to Manila led to the Governor of Hongkong making a long statement, asking for a vote for additional instruments. The nature of the organization from which we gain advantage is indicated by the following extract from Sir Frederick Lugard's speech:—

The Manila Observatory costs about \$145,000 per annum to maintain, and the staff consists of one director, three assistant directors, a secretary and librarian, and ten native observers, calculators, draughtsmen, and mechanics. There are some forty out-stations in the archipelago connected with headquarters. Some of them report three times a day, some twice a day, in the ordinary observation hours between six a.m. and seven p.m. Father Algue agreed that the primary object in view for improving the information regarding typhoon warnings, is that there should be as many stations as possible and the creation, if possible, of more stations and the more frequent despatch of observations from existing stations. In this connection he promised to send extra observations from other stations in the Philippines whenever the station at April should be interrupted, which unfortunately frequently occurs. He also said he would send any information which might be useful in the determination of the position of typhoon centres. Mr. Figg, on his part, promised to send extra observations here whenever they might be required by the Manila Observatory, the Manila Government defraying the cost of transmission. It is satisfactory to find that Mr. Figg, the Director of the Hongkong Observatory, and Father Algue of the Manila Observatory, are in entire agreement that "the chief reliance for the early prediction of storms must be placed on observations of barometer, wind, and weather telegraphed promptly from surrounding areas." To aid that, by the courtesy of the American Government it is hoped that a wireless telegraph station will be placed on San Domingo de Basco, and that warships cruising in the waters should communicate to the Observatory any observations they may make that will be of use in forecasting storms.

OPIMUM CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

Mr. Rees asked the Under-Secretary for India whether, in view of the fact that the Indians possess paid the bill, the Government would exact the clearest and most irrefutable proof that China was *pari passu* with India in reducing her opium cultivation, before India was called upon to the prejudice of her own revenues and her own taxpayers, to make reductions which, in the absence of such proof, must result in transferring business from Indian to Chinese hands.

Mr. Buchanan: The present arrangement for the progressive restriction of the export of opium from India holds good to the end of 1910. The Chinese Government, are aware that the extension of the present arrangement will depend on satisfactory evidence being given that the production of opium has been correspondingly reduced in China.

Mr. Rees: May we hope that there will be some evidence besides that of Chinese official assurances?

Mr. Buchanan: We will take care that that point is considered.

"HIT WITH A BRICK."

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES AGAINST A CONTRACTOR.

Mr. C. Sequiera, a ticket collector in the employ of the "Star" Ferry Company, Limited, has entered an action against Lam Woo, a contractor, for damages, which, it is alleged, was due to the negligence of defendant's servants. The claim is for \$1,000 for injuries sustained by the plaintiff, and the case is set down for hearing in a fortnight's time, pleadings having been ordered to be filed.

Lam Woo has the contract for erecting a building in Pedder Street, and it is stated that one Sunday morning while plaintiff and some lady friends were passing the building a loose brick became dislodged and fell, striking plaintiff on the head.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appears for the plaintiff. The defendant is represented by Mr. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon).

GERMANY IN THE PACIFIC.

COALING BASE CONTEMPLATED.

ANXIETY IN AUSTRALIA.

Considerable excitement has been roused recently in Australia in regard to the impression that Germany is about to create a naval base at Simpsonhafen, in New Britain (or New Pomerania, as it has been re-named by the German Government). Australian anxiety is easily explained, because that island is off the north-east coast of New Guinea and with a short distance of the Australian coast. It is admitted by German Consular representatives in Australia that the transfer of the headquarters of the German Government in the Western Pacific from Herberthöhe to Simpsonhafen has been decided upon. The two places are only a few miles apart, the reason of the change being that Herberthöhe has no harbour, while Simpsonhafen is a fine landlocked port.

At the same time, it is denied that there is a single piece of cannon or anything remotely resembling a fortification in the whole colony, nor is there any intention of establishing a naval base.

On the other hand, an Australian who has been resident in New Britain declared in a newspaper interview, which has been given great prominence in the Australian Press, that Germany does intend to create a naval base at Simpsonhafen. The facts of the case, according to this authority, are these:—

Four years ago the Germans started to establish coaling stations at Simpsonhafen, which is admirably adapted for the purpose, being a landlocked harbour, surrounded by high hills, suitable for fortification, and possessing a narrow entrance that can be easily defended by mines.

Then the North German Lloyd Company erected a wharf far larger than was necessary for their requirements and capable of accommodating the largest warships. The land at the back of the jetty has been reserved by the German Government for the purpose of docks and workshops.

The gentleman who gave these facts to the Press states that his information on this point was obtained direct from German officials. Immense wharfage accommodation already exists, and a big block of land has also been set aside where coal can be stored on an enormous scale.

A CONFIDENT PREDICTION.

"I am confident," this informant concludes in the interview mentioned, "that within a month Simpsonhafen, owing to its peculiar formation, could be fortified and rendered practically impregnable. When we are told that the elaborate plans at Simpsonhafen are not ultimately for the benefit of German warships, it sounds to me like an attempt to hoodwink the people of Australia."

"Simpsonhafen is not wanted as a naval base, today, but the time is rapidly approaching when, if Germany wants such a convenience in the Pacific, she will have it exactly where it will best suit her purposes."

The Commonwealth Defence Department has already considered the question. It is recognised that Simpsonhafen could become a serious danger spot in the case of Germany increasing her naval strength to such an extent as to be able to conduct operations in distant seas. Should a naval base, therefore, be established at Simpsonhafen, the Australian defence policy would immediately become an "offensive-defensive" one, as was recommended by Sir Edward Hutton in his Minute on Defence of April, 1902.

Under such a policy, immediately upon the creation of a diplomatic strain in Europe in which England and Germany were opposed, the first duty of the Australian Government, acting in conjunction with the Imperial Navy in Australian waters, would be to have in readiness an expeditionary military force to co-operate with the Navy seizing Simpsonhafen, thus closing the only German base in Australia that could be utilised for the purpose of aggression against Australia. In the event of Britain's naval power being overcome—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

A CANTON VEREION.

DESPATCHING STORES FROM CHINA.

The Paris edition of the *New York Herald* publishes a telegram from its Canton correspondent stating that it is believed Germany intends to annex an island in the Pacific in order to turn it into a naval base.

This supposition is strengthened by the fact that the Commandant of the German Squadron at Canton has shipped on board a German steamer a quantity of food supplies, guns, ammunition, and material for the erection of barracks.

The destination of the vessel is unknown. The British authorities have sent the *Colonel* to watch the German vessel—*Central News*.

COMMERCIAL YARN.

In their report dated 1st April, Messrs. Fairbanks, B. Peit & Co.

Our last circular was issued on 2nd inst.

The resuming prospects of the yarn market, as indicated in the last report, have not been falsified by events during the fortnight under review. With the return of native dealers to the Colony from the interior, after the observance of their customary rites at the ancestral tombs, inquiries have flowed in in a steady stream, running principally on the most fancied spinners of Nos. 100 and 120. With a continuance of demand the yarn market has ruled strong throughout the past fortnight and prices have moved upwards from one to three dollars per bale.

Besides purchases for immediate requirements, which have gone into the consuming districts, thus assisting in further reducing the steadily diminishing small stock, it is satisfactory to note that a large number of settlements have been effected on the basis of cargo "to arrive." The outlook is bright, and market buoyancy is certain to be maintained with the firmness of importers not to undersell one another.

No. 20.—A good business is reported at an advance of \$1 to \$1 per bale.

No. 100.—Steady at quotations.

No. 120 and 140.—A good inquiry. Prices show an advance of \$1 to \$1 per bale.

No. 80.—Stock all.

No. 60.—Moderate business at an advance of \$1 per bale.

Market closes firm.

Sales:—200 bales of No. 60, 3,835 bales of No. 100, 1,400 bales of No. 120, 300 bales of No. 140, and 2,375 bales of No. 20, in all about 8,000 bales.

Arrivals:—Per steamers *Jopara*, *Ichia*, *G. A. Pear*, *Namsang*, *Kagahima Maru*, *China* and *Araya* of about 8,000 bales.

Uncleared Stock:—About 12,000 bales.

Exchange:—We quote to-day as follows:—

India T. T. at Rs. 131 per cent.

Demand " " 137 1/2

London T. T. Sh. 1.84d.

Demand " " 1.8 15/16d.

Shanghai " " Tls. 74 1/2 = \$100.

Silver " " 23 1/16d. per oz.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. write this afternoon:—

The market, generally speaking, has remained firm during the week under review, but only a moderate business has been transacted. The principal feature of the week has been the improvement in all shipping shares, especially Indo-Chinese.

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have ruled steady during the week, and close with buyers at the improved rate of \$910. The London price has risen to 287.

Marine Insurance.—Cantons are slightly firmer and are quoted at 187 1/2. North China are stronger, and reported sold in the North at 115. There are sellers of Unions at \$340.

According to latest mail advices Yangtze steamers are wanted in the North at \$225, but no shares are obtainable under \$300.

Fire Insurance.—China Firms are again easier and have been sold at 104. Hongkong Firms continue in request at \$320, and could possibly be placed at a higher rate.

Shipping.—China and Manilla have experienced a further rise and close with buyers at \$10. Sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamships have been effected at \$100 and more are required for \$130. Douglas continues in demand at \$35 without inducing sellers. Shell Transports have strengthened to 56 1/2 with buyers. Owing to a sudden demand having set in from the North, Indo-Chinese rapidly rose to \$70, but only a few shares have changed hands.

Refineries.—China Sugars have not fluctuated and are quiet at \$137 1/2. In the North Perak sugars have hardened and were sold at the improved rate of 115 1/2.

Mining.—Chinese Engineerings are weaker at 115, at which rate they are obtainable. Rubbers are offering at 88.

Docks, Wharves, and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharfs have been sold at \$51 1/2 and \$51, and more can probably be had at the latter rate. Whampoa Docks have been dealt in at \$80.

Shanghai Docks are easier at 115. By after sales at the rate, Hongkong Wharves are demanded at the slightly reduced rate of 114 1/2.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—There are buyers of Anglo-French Lands in the North at 115, and Central Stores at \$18. Hongkong Hotels can be placed at \$84. Hongkong Lands have eased down to \$77, at which rate sales have been effected. Humphrey's Estates are obtainable at \$23. Shanghai Lands have changed hands at 117.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons are again on offer at \$3. Ewes have declined to 115. According to latest mail advices from Shanghai just to hand, changes in other Northern Mills are as follows:—Internationals—Tls. 92. Lau Kung Nows—Tls. 112. Buyers. Soy Chees—Tls. 410 buyers.

Miscellaneous.—China Bompas have again been dealt in at \$11.30 and there are more buyers at the rate. Green Island Cements have again found buyers at \$5.00. Hongkong Electric have been sold at \$19 1/2, closing with more inquiries at the latter rate. Watsons have been sold at \$2, while William Powells have further inquiries at \$1 1/2. In the North, Somatras have suffered a severe decline with sellers at 115, while Langkats have taken a sudden jump to 115, 000 buyers.

Exchange.—The Bank's selling rate on London is 1/8 15/16 on demand. The 7/2 rate on Shanghai is 74 1/2.

Dividends Payable.—Yangtze, Final of \$10 for 1907 and interim of \$5 for 1908, making in all \$15 per share for 1908, payable in Shanghai on the 17th April. Hongkong Electric, dividend of \$1 and bonus of 20 cents per share.

Today's Advertisements.

THE DRAPERY EMPORIUM,

7, Lyndhurst Terrace.

ALWAYS IN STOCK.

EUROPEAN, INDIAN and CHINESE.

USEFUL ARTICLES.

OR CLOTHING, FANCY GOODS.

and TOYS.

AT VERY NORMAL RATES.

READY FOR SALE.

The Latest Style Goods for Present Season

Gentlemen's and Children's.

HATS, BONNETS (Hat Flowers), RIBBONS, LACE, BRIDAL VEILS,

FANCY DRESS GOODS, MUSLINS,

LAWNS, NAINSOOKS, SHIRTINGS, ALPACCAS, HOSIERY,

ENGLISH and AMERICAN FOOTWEARS, &c., &c.

Prices and Samples on application.

Best attention to all Coast Port Orders.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909. [346]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION,

FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED,

on

MONDAY,

the 19th April, 1909, at 11 A.M., at their

Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Voeux Road,

corner of Ice House Street.

A QUANTITY OF

FANCY SATIN, MUSLINS, LACE CURTAINS, CRETONE, TABLE COVERS,

BLOUSES, SKIRTS, UNDERSKIRTS, SATIN QUILTS, TRAY CLOTHS,

EMBROIDERED TOP SHEETS, BEDSPREADS, TABLE CLOTHS and SERVIENTS, GENTS and LADY'S HANDKERCHIEFS,

AND

An Assortment of PERFUMES, &c.

ALSO

A Special Assortment of LADIES' TRIMMED HATS, Latest Style and up-to-date shape, and a few CHILDREN'S SILK HATS.

(The Hats will only be on view on the morning of the sale).

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909. [347]

THE STRINGENCY AT TIENTSIN.

Peking, April 9.

It is reported that Viceroy Yuan Shu-huan, of Chihli, has offered to advance Tls. 1,000,000 to relieve the stringency of the money-market at Tientsin, provided that the banks and traders concerned will offer reasonable conditions.

Neither the Government nor the Diplomatic Body is prepared to entertain the proposals recently put forward by the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce, and supported by the German Minister, for the repayment of the traders' losses by a Government loan.—*N. C. D. News*.

JAPANESE COTTON YARN.

ACTIVITY IN SHANGHAI MARKET.

Considerable activity has been shown of late in the market for Japanese cotton yarn in Shanghai. It is attributed by some to the result of the boycott of English goods by the Chinese. This view is repudiated by Mr. Eishi, the Japanese Consul in Shanghai. The activity of Japanese yarn in Shanghai, says the Consul-General, is mainly due to the recovery from the financial depression and the abundant harvest of wheat and barley in the Yangtze valley. The value of cotton yarn arriving in Shanghai represents about one-third of the total imports of the port. The British representative at the Opium Conference at Shanghai was absolutely opposed to the proposal of the Chinese Government to monopolise the opium trade. This appears to have in some way offended the Chinese, but this matter was only slight and cannot be taken as the cause of the increased import of Japanese yarn. The season for the importation of Japanese yarn is from April to October. The increased activity in the yarn trade results from extensive importation in anticipation of a successful harvest of wheat, while the silver exchange, 84-85 taels, serves as another impulse. Consequently the activity of Japanese yarn in Shanghai cannot by any means be ascribed to the Chinese boycott of English goods. It is nothing but the working of a natural law in trade.—*Open Market*.

Public Companies.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the Society will be held at its Head Office, No. 2 Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 1st April, 1909, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, together with statements of Accounts, to 31st December, 1908, and of declaring dividends, &c.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Society will be CLOSED from 11th April to the 1st April, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board.

C. MONTAGUE EDE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 21st March, 1909.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held at its Head Office, No. 2 Queen's Buildings, Victoria, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 1st April, 1909, at 12.15 P.M. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following Special Resolution:—

"That the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society be respectively extended, altered and amended so as to read as shown in the printed form for the purpose of identification by the Chairman of this Meeting and that such extended, altered and amended Memorandum and Articles of Association be henceforth adopted as the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society to the exclusion of those heretofore prevailing."

Should the above Special Resolution be duly passed, it will be subsequently submitted for confirmation to a further Extraordinary General Meeting, of which Notice will be hereafter given.

Priests of the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association can be seen at the Society's Offices or obtained on application there.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

C. MONTAGUE EDE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 7th April, 1909. [306]

THE CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the FORTY-THIRD ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at its Head Office, No. 2 Queen's Buildings, Victoria, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 21st April, 1909, at 12.30 P.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, together with Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1908, and of declaring Dividends.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 7th April to the 21st April, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

C. MONTAGUE EDE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1909. [306]

THE CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at its Head Office, No. 2 Queen's Buildings, Victoria, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 21st April, 1909, at 12.45 P.M. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following Special Resolution:—

"That the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company be respectively extended, altered and amended so as to read as shown in the printed form for the purpose of identification by the Chairman of this Meeting and that such extended, altered and amended Memorandum and Articles of Association be henceforth adopted as the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company to the exclusion of those heretofore prevailing."

Should the above Special Resolution be duly passed, it will be subsequently submitted for confirmation to a further Extraordinary General Meeting, of which Notice will be hereafter given.

Priests of the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association can be seen at the Company's offices or obtained on application

Shipping—Steamers.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.'S

Royal Mail Steamship Line.

"EMPRESS LINE."

Between China, Japan and Europe via Canada and the United States, calling at Hongkong, Shanghai, Nagasaki (through the Inland Sea of Japan) Kobe, Yokohama, Victoria and Vancouver B.C.

The only Line that maintains a Regular Schedule Service of 12 DAYS YOKOHAMA TO VANCOUVER. 12 DAYS HONGKONG TO VANCOUVER. SAVING 5 TO 7 DAYS' OCEAN TRAVEL.

Proposed Sailings from Hongkong, St. John and Quebec.

(Subject to alteration.)

From Hongkong,	From St. John or Quebec.
"EMPRESS OF CHINA"	"EMPRESS OF IRELAND"
SUNDAY, MAY 2ND.	FRIDAY, MAY 7TH.
"MONTEAGLE"	ALLAN LINER.
TUESDAY, MAY 11TH.	FRIDAY, MAY 14TH.
"EMPRESS OF INDIA"	
SUNDAY, MAY 23RD.	
"EMPRESS OF JAPAN"	"EMPRESS OF BRITAIN"
SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH.	FRIDAY, JUNE 18TH.

"Empress" Steamers will depart from Hongkong at 6 a.m.

Each Trans-Pacific "Empress" connects at Vancouver with a Special Mail Express Train and at St. John or Quebec with Atlantic Mail Steamers as shown above. The "Empress of Britain" and "Empress of Ireland" are magnificent vessels of 14,500 tons, Speed 22 knots, and are regarded as second to none on the Atlantic.

Passengers booked to all the principal points in Canada, the United States and Europe, also around the World.

HONGKONG TO LONDON, 1st Class, via Canadian Atlantic Port or New York (including Meals and Berth in Sleeping Car while crossing the American Continent by Canadian Pacific direct line).

Passengers for Europe have the option of going forward by any Trans-Atlantic Line either from Canadian Ports or from New York or Boston.

SPECIAL THROUGH RATES (First Class only) are granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services of China and Japan Governments.

Through Passengers are allowed Stop over privileges at the various points of interest on route.

R.M.S. "MONTEAGLE" carries only "One Class" of Saloon Passengers (termed Intermediate) the accommodation and commissariat being excellent in every way.

HONGKONG TO LONDON. Intermediate on Steamers and 1st Class on Canadian and American Railways.

Via Canadian Atlantic Port

Via New York

For further information, Maps, Guide Books, Rates of Passage and Freight, apply to—

W. ORRIDGE & CO., General Agents.

Corner Pedder Street and Praya (opposite Blake Pier).

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LD.

(PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION)

For	Steamship	On
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE	"NANSANG"	SUNDAY, 18th April, Daylight.
SHANGHAI	"CHOYSANG"	TUESDAY, 20th April, Noon.
TIENSIN via SWATOW, TSINGTAI, WEIHAWEI & CHEFOO.	"CHIPSANG"	WEDNESDAY, 21st April, Noon.
SHANGHAI	"BANGSANG"	THURSDAY, 22nd April, Noon.
MANILA	"LOONGSANG"	FRIDAY, 23rd April, 4 P.M.
MANILA	"YUNGSANG"	FRIDAY, 23rd April, 4 P.M.
SINGAPORE, PENANG & CALCUTTA.	"FOOSANG"	MONDAY, 26th April, Noon.

RETURN TOURS TO JAPAN.

Occurring 24 Days.

The steamers *Kuisang*, *Namsang* and *Hoosang* leave about every 3 weeks for Shanghai and Yokohama returning via Kobe (Inland Sea) and Moji to Hongkong, providing a stay of 5 to 6 days in Japan if passengers leave the steamer at Yokohama and return at Kobe.

These vessels have all modern improvements and are fitted throughout with Electric Light. A duly qualified surgeon is also carried.

Steamers have superior accommodations for First-class Passengers, and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to Yangtze Ports, Chefoo, Tientsin & Newchwang, for Freight or Passage, apply to—

JARDINE MATHESON & CO., LD.,

General Managers.

Telephone No. 41. Hongkong, 16th April, 1909.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

From	STEAMERS.	To	SAIL
TIENSIN	"HUICHOW"	17th April	4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"ANHU"	18th "	Daylight.
SHANGHAI	"YUKIANG"	19th "	4 P.M.
MANILA	"TEAN"	20th "	3 P.M.
CHEFOO & NEWCHANG	"NANSHANG"	21st "	4 P.M.
SWATOW, WEIHAWEI, TSINGTAI & TIENSIN.	"KUBICHOW"	21st "	"
AMOI, MANILA, CEBU & ILOILO	"SUNGKANG"	22nd "	"
SHANGHAI	"CHINHUA"	23rd "	"
SHANGHAI	"CHEYAN"	25th "	Daylight.
MANILA	"TAKING"	27th "	3 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"LINAN"	29th "	4 P.M.
MANILA, ZAMBOANGA and USUAL	"TAIYUAN"	14th May	"

Reduced Saloon Fares, single and return, to Manila and Australian Ports. DIRECT SAILING TO WEST RIVER, Twice Weekly.

S.S. "LINTAN" and S.S. "SANDI."

AUSTRALIAN STEAMERS have superior accommodation with Electric Light throughout and Electric Fans in Staterooms. A duly qualified Doctor is carried. REDUCED FARES. Cargo booked through for all Australian, New Zealand and Tasmanian Ports.

MANILA TWIN-SCREW STEAMERS and TIENSIN STEAMERS have superior accommodation with Electric Light throughout and Electric Fans in Staterooms and Dining Saloons.

FAST SCHEDULE TWIN-SCREW STEAMERS (Anhui, Chien, Linan, Chihua), with excellent passenger accommodation, Electric Light throughout and Electric Fans in the Staterooms and Dining Saloon, leave Hongkong for Shanghai direct every Thursday and Sunday, taking cargo in through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports.

N.B.—These steamers land passengers in Shanghai at the French Bund. Fares including wines—single \$40, return \$70.

For Freight or Passage, apply to—

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

AGENTS.

Telephone No. 36. Hongkong, 16th April, 1909.

HONGKONG—MANILA.

Highest Class, lowest, fastest and most luxurious Steamers between Hongkong and Manila. Saloon midships—Electric Light—Perfect Cuisine—Surgeon and Stewardess carried.

All the most up-to-date arrangements for comfort of Passengers.

CHINA AND MANILA

STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Steamship.	Tons.	Captain.	For	Sailing Date.
RUBI	5540	R. W. Almond.	MANILA	SATURDAY, 17th April, at Noon.
ZAFIRO	5540	R. Rodger.	MANILA	SATURDAY, 24th April, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to—

SHEWAN TOMES & CO.

General Managers.

Telephone No. 12th April.

Shipping—Steamers. SOLE AMERICAN LINE.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE FOR CALLAO, IQUIQUE, VALPARAISO, Etc., via MOJI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, HONOLULU, MANZANILLO and SALINA CRUZ (Mexico).

S.S. HONGKONG MARU	5,000 tons gross	Sail 1st June, 1909, at Noon.
S.S. MANSHU MARU	5,000 "	" August, 1909.
S.S. AMERICA MARU	5,000 "	" October, 1909.
S.S. HONGKONG MARU	5,000 "	" Dec., 1909.

For particulars, apply to

K. MATSUDA,

Manager.

TOYO KISEN KAISHA, Yok Building.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1909.



THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM

FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUSTRALIA, INDIA, ADEEN, FGVT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, PLYMOUTH AND LONDON.

(Through Bills of Lading issued for DARAVIA, ISRAELI GULF, COAST GUARD, AMERICA CAN and SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.)

THE Steamship

"DEVANHA," Captain W. Hayward, R.N.R., carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this for BOMBAY, &c., TO-MORROW, the 17th April, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports in connection with the Company's S.S. *Mongolia*, to 10,000 tons, from Colombo, Pasigara, accommodation in which vessel is secured before departure from Hongkong.

Silk and Valuable, all Cargo for France, and Tea for London (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Colombo into the Mail steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and London, other Cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed via Bombay by the R.M.S. *Calcutta*, due in London on 26th May, 1909.

Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents and Value of all Packages are required.

For further Particulars, apply to

E. A. HEWITT, Superintendent

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO NEW YORK, VIA PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL.

(With Liberty to Call at Malabar Coast.)

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG

FOR BOSTON & NEW YORK: S.S. "DACE CASTLE" About 20th April.

FOR NEW YORK ONLY: S.S. "SATSUMA" About 20th May.

For Freight and further information, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, Agents.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909.

THE BANK LINE, LIMITED.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Overland Common Points in the United States of America and Canada, and also for the principal ports in Mexico and Central and South America.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG

FOR VICTORIA, B.C. SEATTLE & TACOMA VIA MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

Steamer Tons. Captain. Sailing Date

Aymrie 4,363 T. Shotton About 24th April, 1909

Swerte 6,233 Shotton 3rd June

These steamers are specially fitted for the carriage of Asiatic cargo passengers.

PARCEL EXPRESS TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

For further information, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, General Agents.

Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, 8th April, 1909.

STEAM TO CANTON.

THE New Twin Screw Steel Steamers

"KWONG TUNG" Capt. E. W. WALKER.

"KWONG SAI" Capt. E. S. GOWE.

Leave Hongkong for Canton at 9 every evening, (Saturday excepted).

Leave Canton for Hongkong at 5.30 every evening, (Sunday excepted).

These Fine New Steamers have excellent Accommodation for First Class Passengers and are well equipped with Electricity, Electric Fans in First Class Cabins.

Passage Fare—Single Journey—\$1.

Meals included in the above.

The Company's Wharf is situated in front of the New Wharves Market, opposite the old Harbour Office.

YUN ON S.S. CO., LD., and SHIP ON S.S. CO., LD., 30, Queen's Road West, Hongkong, 14th April, 1909.

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS, LIMITED.

FOR MARSEILLES, LONDON AND ANTWERP.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Ports in the United Kingdom and the Continent.

THE Steamship

"GLAMORGANSHIRE" will be despatched at above on or about the 20th April.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hongkong, 2nd April, 1909.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

THE Steamship

"CATHERINE APCAR," Captain G. F. Hudson, will be despatched for the above Ports, on TUESDAY, the 20th instant, at Noon, instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DAVID SASSOON & CO., LIMITED, Agents.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909.

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

(Calling at Port Darwin and Queensland Ports, and taking through Cargo to Adelaide, New Zealand, Tasmania, &c.)

THE Steamship

Captain McArthur, will be despatched as above on WEDNESDAY, the 23rd inst., at Noon.

This well-known Steamer is specially fitted for Passengers, and has a Refrigerating Chamber which ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions, Ice, &c., throughout the voyage.

The Steamer is installed throughout with the Electric Light.

A Stewardess and a duly qualified Surgeon are carried.

M.B.—To assure the additional comfort of passengers the steamers of the Company have electric fans fitted in staterooms.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 2nd April, 1909.

HONGKONG—BOSTON—NEW YORK.

THE Steamship

S.S. "INDRAMAYO" FRIDAY, 30th April.

For Freight and further information, apply to

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., General Agents.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909.

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS, LIMITED.

FOR SOUTHAMPTON, LONDON AND ANTWERP.

THE Steamship

"MONMOUTHSHIRE" Captain G. S. Warner, R.N.R., will be despatched as above on or about 8th May.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LD., Agents.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

CHARGEURS REUNIS (FRENCH STEAMSHIP COMPANY).

REGULAR FREIGHT SERVICE TO

SAN FRANCISCO, MEXICO, PERU, CHILE, RIVER PLATT, BRAZIL.

The steamers of the CHARGEURS REUNIS Co. proceed from YOKOHAMA DIRECT to SAN FRANCISCO, without any call en route thus affording a fast regular cargo boat service from China and Japan to San Francisco.

THE Steamship

"AMIRAL EXELMANS," 10,000 tons, Captain X, will be despatched for SAN FRANCISCO, and other above destinations on or about the 21st of May.

For further particulars apply to

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES, Agents at Hongkong.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1909.

HONGKONG AVERAGE MARKET PRICES.

Corrected 15th April, 1909, per 5 Mds.

BUTCHER MEAT.

Beef—Prime cut—Moi Lung Pa. 20.

Comed—Ham Ngau Yuk 20.

Roast—Shu 20.

Breast—Ngau Lam 18.

Soup—Toong Yuk 15.

Steak—Ngau Yuk Pa 30.

Shrimp—Ngau Lau 30.

Sausages—Ngau Yuk Chaug 26.

Bullock's Brisket—Know per set 10.

Tongue fresh—Ngau Li each 10.

Comed—Ham Ngau Li 60.

Head—Ngau Tau 80.

Heart—Ngau Sum per lb 13.

Hump—Salt—Ngau Kin 18.

Feet—Ngau Kook each 8.

Kidneys—Ngau Yiu 10.

Tail—Ngau Mol 18.

Liver—Ngau Oon 13.

Tripe (undressed)—Ngau To 6.

Calves' Head and Feet—Ngau-hai 10.

Mutton Chop—Yeung Pui Kwai 22.

Leg—Yeung Pui 22.

Shoulder—Yeung Shau 20.

Pigs' Chilling—Chi cheong 22.

Breast—Chi Kook per set 11.

Feet—Chi Kook 11.

Fry—Chi Chak 25.

Head—Chi Tau 15.

Heart—Chi Sum each 8.

Kidneys—Chi Yiu pair 7.

Liver—Chi Koon 24.

Pork Chop—Chi Pui Kwai 18.

Comed—Ham Oon Yuk 11.

Leg—Chi Pui 23.

Fat or Lard—Chu Yau 27.

Sheep's Head and Feet—Yeung Tau 50.

Kook 50.

Heart—Yeung Sum each 6.

Kidneys—Yeung Yiu 9.

Liver—Yeung Oon 24.

Jacking Pig, To Order—Chu Chai 21.

Beef—Sung Ngau Yau 20.

Mutton—Sung Young Yau 23.

Veal—Ngau Chai Yuk 20.

Sausages—Ngau Chai Yuk Tong 20.

POULTRY.

Chicken—Kai Chai 30.

Gosons, Large, Small—Sin Kai 28.

Ducks—Ap 20.

SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. KADOURIS & Co. Connected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	VALUE.	PAID UP.	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT.	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE RETURN AT MARKET QUOTATION. BASED ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
BANKS.							
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	120,000	\$125	\$125	{ \$1,500,000 \$14,500,000 \$250,000 }	\$2,006,234	{ Final of 1/2 and bonus of 1/2 for 1908 @ ex 1/8 = \$25.00 }	\$2 1/2 { 1910 London 487 }
National Bank of China, Limited	99,925	£7	£6	{ £4,000 £150,000 }	\$10,223	\$2 (London 3/5) for 1903	8 1/2
MARINE INSURANCE.							
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	\$250	\$50	{ \$1,500,000 \$14,737 \$150,000 }	none	\$14 for 1907	7 1/2 { 1907 sales }
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£15	£5	{ Tls. 150,000 Tls. 307,747 Tls. 118,277 }	Tls. 160,512	Final of 7/16 making 15/16 for 1907	5 1/2 Tls. 105 sales
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	12,400	\$250	\$100	{ \$200,000 \$204,478 \$129,691 \$737,049 }	\$2,106,011	{ Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1908 and interim of 1/2 for 1907	5 1/2 { 1908 sales }
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	12,000	\$100	\$60	{ \$1,000,000 \$199,033 \$85,157 }	\$591,768	\$12 and bonus 1/2 for 1908	7 1/2 { 1908 buyers }
FIRE INSURANCE.							
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	0,000	\$100	\$10	{ \$1,000,000 \$100,000 \$8,608 }	\$375,341	\$5 and bonus 1/2 for 1907	7 1/2 { 1904 sellers }
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	\$250	\$50	{ \$1,500,000 \$150,000 \$12,802 }	\$368,711	\$27 for 1907	8 1/2 { 1908 buyers }
SHIPPING.							
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	\$25	\$25	{ \$7,000 \$254,438 }	\$1,085	\$2 for 1908	5 1/2 { 1908 buyers }
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	20,000	\$50	\$50	{ \$250,000 \$250,000 }	NIL	\$1 for year ending 30.4.1908	7 1/2 { 1908 buyers }
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$15	\$11	{ \$607,100 \$79,421 \$2,344 }	\$20,279	Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1908	8 1/2 { 1908 buyers }
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred) ..	60,000	£5	£5	{ £10,000 £240,000 }	£13,755	{ 6/1 for 1907 on Preference shares only @ ex 1/8 = \$5.15 }	4 1/2 { 1908 buyers }
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	100,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	{ Tls. 75,000 Tls. 780,000 Tls. 100,000 }	Tls. 4,510	Final of Tls. 1/2 making Tls. 3/4 for 1908 ..	7 1/2 { Tls. 50 buyers }
"Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited ..	1,000,000	£1	£1	{ £1,000,000 £1,000,000 }	£6,817	Second interim of 1/2 for a/c 1908	7 1/2 { Tls. 50 buyers }
"Star" Ferry Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$5	{ \$5,000 \$47,221 }	\$98	{ \$1.00 for year ending 30.4.1908	{ 4 1/2 5 1/2 }
Taku Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	10,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	{ Tls. 98,000 Tls. 481,479 Tls. 44,100 Tls. 8,000 Tls. 7,000 }	Tls. 2,215	Final of Tls. 1/2 making Tls. 3/4 for 1908 ..	11 1/2 Tls. 45 sales
REFINERIES.							
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	10,000	100	100	{ \$500,000 \$50,000 }	Dr. \$5,138	\$5 for year ending 31.12.08	3 1/2 { 1907 sellers }
Luxon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	Dr. \$135,833	\$3 for year ending 31.12.08	17 Tls. 13 1/2 sales
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited	7,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	{ Tls. 100,000 }	Tls. 9,173	Tls. 3 1/2 for year ending 31.8.07	17 Tls. 13 1/2 sales
MINING.							
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd.	100,000	£1	£1	{ £175,000 £12,189 }	£11,556	{ Final of 1/2 (coupon No. 12) for year end- ing 31.12.08	7 1/2 Tls. 18 buyers
Rio Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited ..	50,000	£1	£1	{ £4,578 }	Dr. £2,194	No. 12 of 1/2 = 48 cents	58
DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.							
Fenwick (Geo.) & Co., Limited	18,000	\$25	\$25	{ \$49,500 }	Dr. \$7,411	\$1.75 for year ending 31.12.08	\$12
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$50	\$50	{ \$50,000 \$20,500 \$20,000 }	\$10,102	Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1907	\$5 1/2 sales
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd.	50,000	\$50	\$50	{ \$50,000 \$9,197 }	\$8,728	Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1908	10 1/2 180 sales
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	55,700	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	{ Tls. 1,000,000 Tls. 607,557 }	Tls. 33,742	{ Interim of Tls. 2 1/2 for 6 months ending 31st October, 1908	5 1/2 Tls. 84 sellers
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited ..	35,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	{ Tls. 1,000,000 Tls. 185,000 }	Tls. 22,818	Final of Tls. 6 making Tls. 10 for 1908	6 Tls. 16 1/2 sellers
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.							
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.	25,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	{ Tls. 25,000 Tls. 10,000 }	Tls. 4,374	Tls. 6 for year ending 30.9.09	6 1/2 Tls. 120 buyers
Astor House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai) ..	30,000	\$25	\$25	{ \$10,000 \$1,000 }	Dr. \$1,200	\$2 for year ending 31.12.08	10 1/2 \$20 buyers
Central Stores, Limited	50,123	\$15	\$15	{ \$15,000 \$1,000 }	21,411	\$1 1/2 on old and 60 cents on first new issue.	10 1/2 \$18 buyers
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	\$50	\$50	{ \$12,000 \$1,000 }	\$205	Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1908	7 1/2 \$84 buyers
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$100	{ \$50,000 \$1,000 }	26,475	Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1908	7 1/2 \$97 sales
Hampshire Estate & Finance Company, Limited ..	150,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$150,000 \$1,000 }	15,86	60 cents for year ending 31.12.08	7 1/2 183
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited ..	6,000	\$50	\$50	{ \$6,000 }	278	\$1 1/2 for year ending 31.12.08	5 1/2 30
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	{ Tls. 1,000,000 Tls. 3,100,000 }	Tls. 142,404	{ Final of Tls. 3 and bonus of Tls. 2 making Tls. 5 for 1908	7 1/2 Tls. 118 sales
West Point Building Company, Limited	12,500	\$50	\$50	{ \$12,500 }	5,968	Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1908	9 1/2 144 sellers
COTTON MILLS.							
Soo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd.	15,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	{ Tls. 150,000 Tls. 45,000 }	Tls. 8,820	Tls. 5 for year ending 31.12.08	4 1/2 Tls. 118 sellers
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited	125,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$125,000 \$10,000 }	59,553	50 cents for year ending 31.7.08	5 1/2 19 sellers
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	10,000	Tls. 75	Tls. 75	{ Tls. 750,000 Tls. 31,172 }	Tls. 8,372	Tls. 6 for year ending 30.6.08 (8 1/2)	10 1/2 Tls. 93
Loon-kung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	{ Tls. 800,000 Tls. 31,172 }	Tls. 4,29	Tls. 4 for year ending 31.12.08	10 1/2 Tls. 123 buyers
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	7,000	Tls. 500	Tls. 500	{ Tls. 350,000 Tls. 31,172 }	Tls. 15,911	Tls. 50 for 1907	10 1/2 Tls. 410 buyers
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,664	12 1/2	12 1/2	{ \$1,500 \$1,000 }	£648	1/10 p. 1/2 share ex 1907 = \$1.037	10 1/2 120 sales
China-Borneo Company, Limited	60,000	\$12	\$12	{ \$12,000 \$1,000 }	NIL	\$1.50 for 1908	10 1/2 \$11.50 sales
China Light and Power Company, Limited	50,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$10,000 \$1,000 }	61,238	60 cents for year ending 31.12.08	15 198 sellers
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd.	185,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$185,000 \$10,000 }	13,407	80 cents for 1908	8 1/2 \$14
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	40,000	\$7 1/2	\$6	{ \$30,000 \$8,000 }	548	\$1.50 for year ending 31.7.08	5 1/2 \$14
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	125,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$125,000 \$10,000 }	3,750	Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1908	10 1/2 18.00 sellers
H. Price & Company, Limited	21,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$21,000 \$10,000 }	2,511	75 cents for 6 months ending 31.12.07	8 1/2 \$2 sales
Hall & Holts, Limited	21,000	\$20	\$20	{ \$21,000 \$10,000 }	18,957	\$2 for year ending 31.12.08	8 1/2 \$19
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$60,000 \$10,000 }	59,321	\$1 and bonus 20 cts. for year ending 29.2.08 ..	8 1/2 \$170 sellers
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	\$25	\$25	{ \$125,000 \$10,000 }	57,661	Final of 1/2 per share making \$19 for 1908 ..	8 1/2 \$24
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$60,000 \$10,000 }	18,90	Final of 1/2 per share making \$2 for 1908 ..	8 1/2 \$24
Maatichappi (or Mijia) Bosch on Landbouwen plaat in Langkat, Limited	25,000	Ga. 100	Ga. 100	{ Tls. 307,500 Tls. 63,121 }	Tls. 5,612	1st Quarterly div. of Tls. 12 1/2 for account 1909	6 1/2 Tls. 700 sales
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	25,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$25,000 \$10,000 }	\$7,471	80 cents on fully paid shares and 60 cents on 1/2 paid shares for year ending 30.4.08 ..	6 1/2 \$14
Philippine Company, Limited	75,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$75,000 \$10,000 }	18,640	None	6 1/2 \$8
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited	24,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	{ Tls. 100,000 Tls. 24,000 }	Tls. 6,603	Final of Tls. 4 making Tls. 7 1/2 for 1907	6 1/2 Tls. 112 buyers
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 20	Tls. 20	{ Tls. 75,000 Tls. 24,000 }	Tls. 1,350	Final of Tls. 5 making Tls. 8 for 1908	5 1/2 Tls. 147 1/2 buyers
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	15,850	£20	£20	{ £15,850 £10,000 }	Tls. 28,038	Final of 1/2 making 1/2 for 1908	10 1/2 Tls. 4 1/2 ex d.
South China Morning Post, Limited	20,000	\$5	\$5	{ \$20,000 \$10,000 }	Dr. \$16,623	None	10 1/2 \$24
Steam Laundry Company, Limited	20,000	\$5	\$5	{ \$20,000 \$10,000 }	2,326	40 cents for year ending 31.5.08	7 1/2 \$24 sales
Tientsin Waterworks Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	{ Tls. 15,000 Tls. 4,000 }	Tls. 801	Tls. 6 1/2 for year ending 30.4.07	10 1/2 Tls. 94 buyers
Union Waterboat Company, Limited	50,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$50,000 \$10,000 }	5,172	60 cents for year ending 31.12.08	5 1/2 150 sales
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$10,000 \$10,000 }	11,160	50 cents on 9,000 ord. shares and \$10.00 on 100 Founders shares for yr. end. 31.5.07 ..	6 1/2 \$15 buyers
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited	90,000	\$10	\$10	{ \$90,000 \$25,000 }	26,418	Interim of 30 cents a/c 1908	6 1/2 \$9 buyers
William Powell, Limited	15,000	\$7	\$7	{ \$15,000 \$10,000 }	2,295	Final of 30 cts. making 60 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906	6 1/2 \$24 buyers

* These shares are entitled to half of the profits.

DIVIDENDS PAYABLE—

Yangtze Insurance Association Limited ..
Union Insurance Society

Intimation.

COMPANIA GENERAL DE
TABACOS
DE FILIPINAS.

ESTABLISHED IN 1882. CAPITAL ₱3,000,000.



"LA FLOR DE LA ISABELA."

High grade cigars manufactured with the best selected leaf grown in the estates of the Company.

SPECIAL BRANDS:

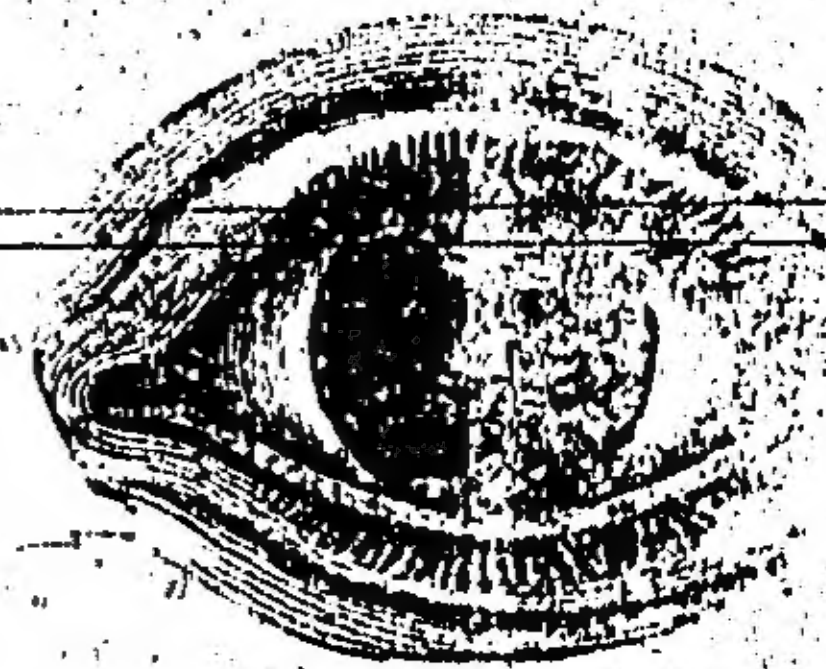
Pigtails, Vegueros Especiales, Regalia A Lopez, Regalia G Pereira, Favoritos A Lopez, Favoritos A Correa, Perfectos Especiales, Exquisitos, Reina Victoria, High Life, Londres Finos, Conchas Finas, and other Current Brands.

RETAILED IN ALL THE LEADING STORES.

BARRETTO & CO.,

AGENTS.

EYES



RIGHT!

N. LAZARUS, OPHTHALMIC OPTICIAN,

CORNER OF D'AGUILAR STREET AND QUEEN'S ROAD.

WILL test your eyes free of charge, and if they are wrong will put them right.

Lenses Ground. All kinds of Repairs. Spectacles for all requirements.

Ask, or write, for Illustrated Booklet on "Defective Sight,"—free.

LONDON,

CALCUTTA,

SHANGHAI,

2nd Street, Bedford Row, W.C.

59, Beaulieu Street

166, Nanjing Road

O. C. MOOSA,
1 & 3, D'AGUILAR STREET.

NOVELTIES OF THE SEASON.

Trimmed and Untrimmed—

HATS, RIBBONS, FLOWERS,

FEATHERS, &c., &c.

LACE SCARFS, MOTOR VEILS

IN

VARIOUS COLORS.

MOUSQUETEIRE GLOVES

IN

WHITE, BLACK & COLORS.

WOOLLEN DELAINES, NUNSVAIL-

INGS, VOILES, &c., &c.

LADIES' and CHILDREN'S

UNDERCLOTHINGS.

Samples on application. Cash

Port orders carefully executed.

From 1908, 2nd September, 1908.

THERAPION MAY NOW ALSO BE OBTAINED

IN DRUGS (TASTELESS) FORM.

A BROKEN-DOWN SYSTEM

This is a condition (or disease) which doctors

give any name, but which few of them really

understand. It is simply weakness—a break-down

of the vital forces that sustain the system. No matter what may be its cause (for

it is almost universal), its symptoms are the same: the more pronounced being sleep-

lessness, or prostration or weakness, dizziness, or

want of energy for all the affairs of life. Now, what alone is sufficient

to cure such cases is a certain remedy called

THERAPION. It is a powerful, and

proven that as night succeeds the day this

more certain remedy secured by a course of

THERAPION No. 3

than by any other known combination. So early

as it is taken in accordance with the

directions accompanying it, will the shattered

system be restored.

THERAPION LAMP OF LIFE

LIT UP AGAIN.

A new existence imparted in place of the

old one. Literally, a new life.

This wonderful medicine is purely

vegetable and innocent, is agreeable to the taste

suitable for all constitutions and conditions, in

either sex, and it is difficult to imagine a case of

disease or derangement, whose main feature are

prostration, weakness, or want of energy, which is

not speedily benefited by this never-failing

remedy. It is sold by

all chemists, druggists, and grocers, and the

word "THERAPION" appears on the wrapper.

Beware of cheap imitations. The word

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